



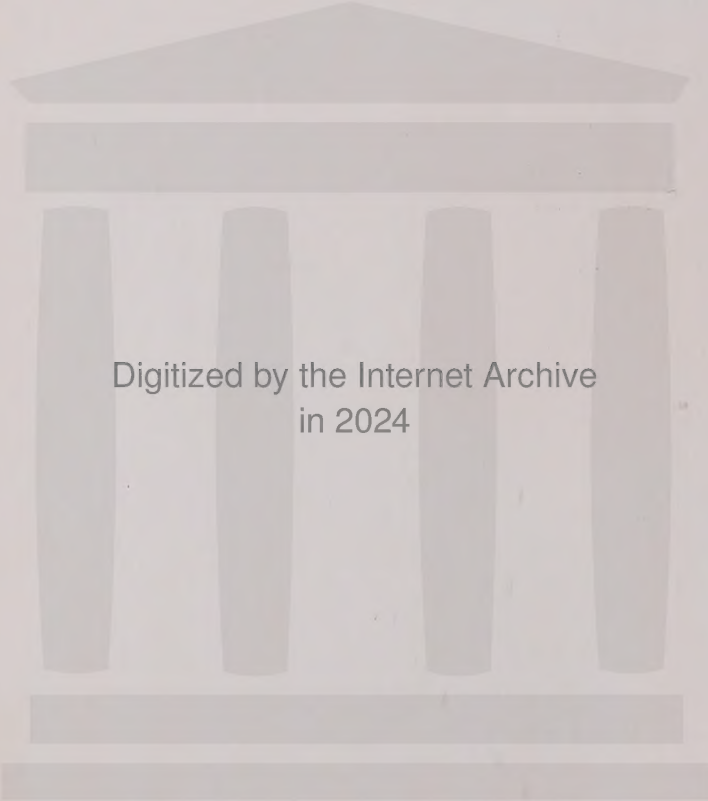
MAGGOG

**LETHAL
FORCE**



KEITH GIFFEN
HOWARD PORTER
JOHN DELL

hp
8/9/02
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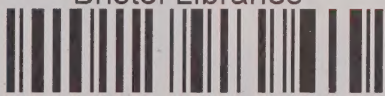
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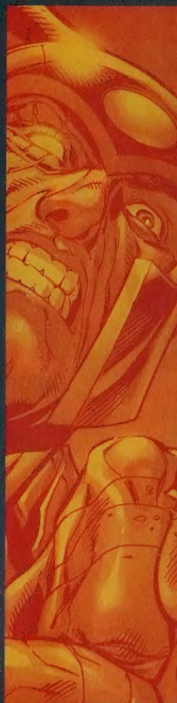


MAGOG

**LETHAL
FORCE**

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Penciller

JOHN DELL

Inker

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Colorist

PAT BROSSEAU

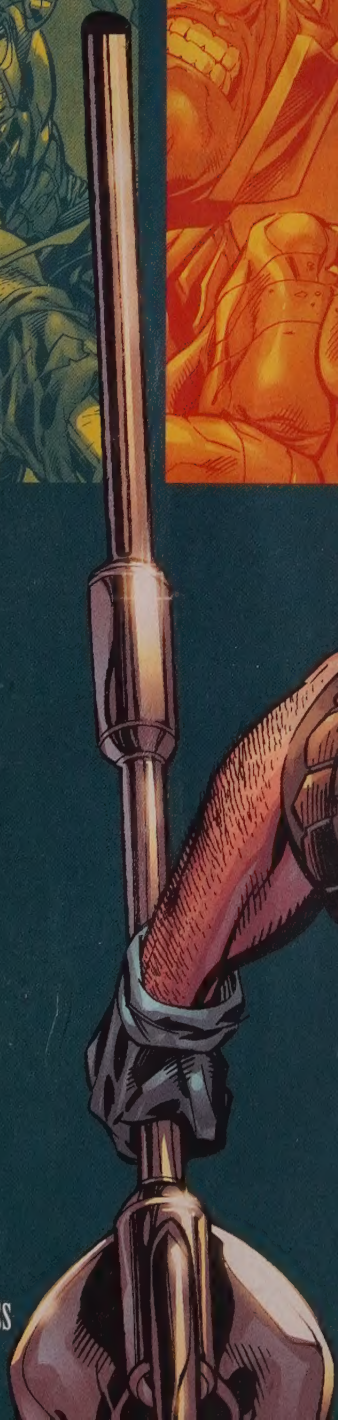
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MAGOG

**LETHAL
FORCE**



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HERE'S WHAT I KNOW.
I KNOW IT'S NOWHERE
NEAR ENOUGH, BUT IT'S
ALL I'VE GOT.

REID, DAVID.
72358/92/09A. LANCE
CORPORAL, 2ND PLATOON
OUT OF THE 81ST.
MARINE...PATRIOT...THIRD
WORLD HELLHOLES A
SPECIALTY.

THAT WAS
THEN.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED
WHAT HAPPENED WAS
PRETTY MUCH, INEVITABLE.

TOO NEGATIVE?
CATCH A ROCKET-
PROPELLED GRENADE
AND LET'S HEAR YOUR
POSITIVE SPIN ON IT.

I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY I
TOOK THE BLAST TO SAVE MY
BUDDIES...BUT, TRUTH IS, I
NEVER SAW IT COMING.

SPEAKING OF
THINGS I NEVER
SAW COMING...

CALLED
ITSELF GOG.

APPARENTLY IT'D BEEN
KEEPING AN EYE ON ME, AND
HOW DISTURBING IS THAT?

TO HEAR GOG TELL
IT, MY DESTINY WAS
STILL OUT THERE
WAITING FOR ME.

SO...GOODBYE,
DAVID REID.
HELLO, MAGOG.

YEAH, JUST LIKE
THAT. ONE MINUTE A
BROKEN MEAT BAG,
THE NEXT A BONA
FIDE SUPER-HUMAN.

FOR A WHILE
THERE IT WAS
PRETTY CUT AND
DRIED, GOG
SAID, I DID. AND
WHY NOT?

GOG WAS THE
CLOSEST THING TO
A GOD I'D EVER
RUBBED UP AGAINST,
AND IT WAS SAYING
AND DOING ALL THE
RIGHT THINGS.

TURNS OUT MY "LORD AND
MASTER" WAS A CLOSET
SADIST, AN ALL-OR-
NOTHING GOD.

IT STARTED ROOTING ITSELF
INTO THE PLANET LIKE SOME
KIND OF PARASITE.

COULDN'T
HAVE THAT.

I STILL FIND IT HARD
TO BELIEVE I TOOK
OUT A GOD.

THERE. THAT'S WHAT
I KNOW. TOLD YOU
IT WASN'T MUCH.

SHORT FORM:
GOG IS GONE BUT
MAGOG IS STILL



GUESS GOG
WAS RIGHT
ABOUT ONE
THING...
DESTINY
CALLS.

SUDAN,
AFRICA

SUDAN,
AFGHANISTAN,
HAITI, THE LIST
GOES ON.

HELL ON EARTH.
SQUALID PITS OF
INSTITUTIONALIZED
SUFFERING.

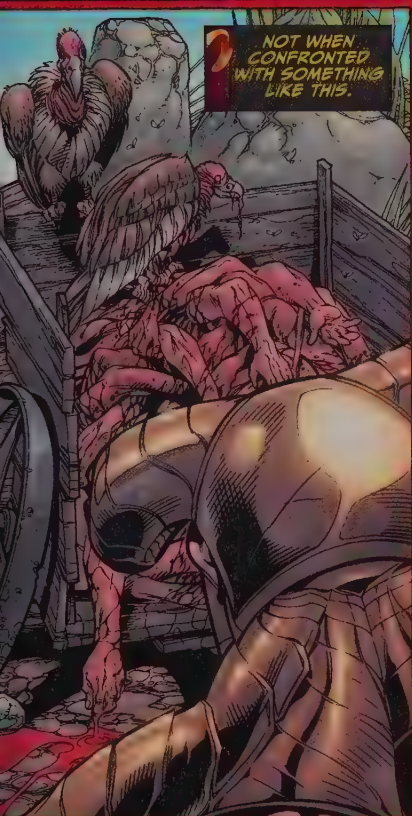
WHERE ARE
ALL THE
HEROES?

GIVE THEM AN
ALIEN WORLD IN
NEED AND
THEY'RE THERE
IN A FLASH.

GIVE THEM A COUNTRY
IN NEED AND THEY TURN
A BLIND EYE, START
BLEATING ABOUT NATIONAL
SOVEREIGNTY AND EXERTING
UNDUE INFLUENCE...

...BASICALLY THE
SAME TIRED LITANY
OF EXCUSES FOR
NOT DOING WHAT
THEY KNOW IS
RIGHT.

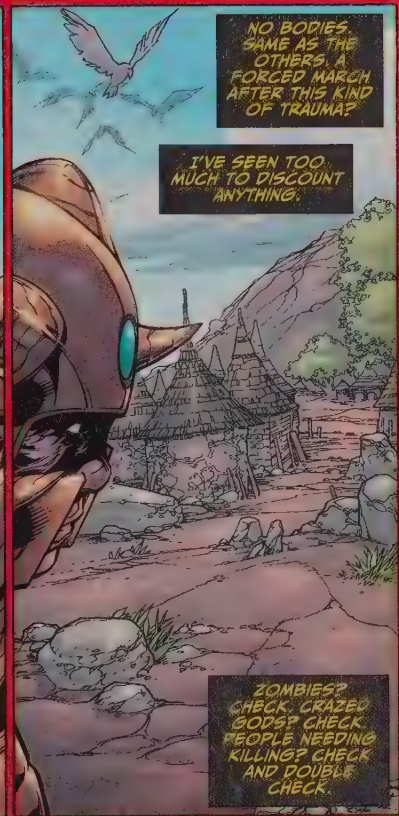
SORRY...
NOT MY
STYLE.



NOT WHEN
CONFRONTED
WITH SOMETHING
LIKE THIS.

BUTCHER, BLOCK
INTIMIDATION OR
PARTY FAVORS?
AROUND HERE IT'S
HARD TO TELL.

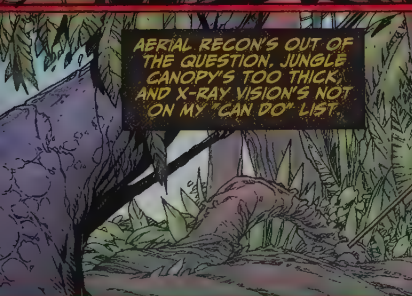
THAT'S TWO
VILLAGES IN
AS MANY DAYS.
TWO TOO
MANY.



NO BODIES.
SAME AS THE
OTHERS. A
FORCED MARCH
AFTER THIS KIND
OF TRAUMA?

I'VE SEEN TOO.
MUCH TO DISCOUNT
ANYTHING.

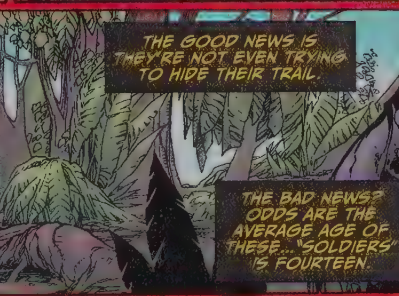
ZOMBIES?
CHECK. CRAZED
GODSP CHECK.
PEOPLE NEEDING
KILLING? CHECK
AND DOUBLE
CHECK.



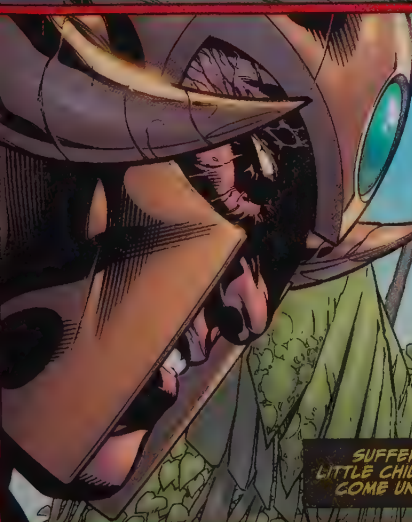
AERIAL RECON'S OUT OF
THE QUESTION. JUNGLE
CANOPY'S TOO THICK,
AND X-RAY VISION'S NOT
ON MY "CAN DO" LIST.



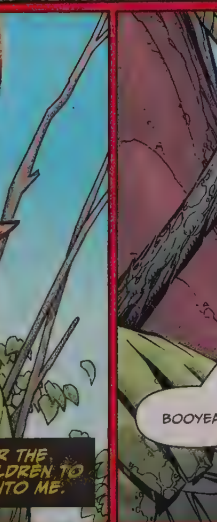
THE GOOD NEWS IS
THEY'RE NOT EVEN TRYING
TO HIDE THEIR TRAIL.



THE BAD NEWS?
ODDS ARE THE
AVERAGE AGE OF
THESE... "SOLDIERS"
IS FOURTEEN.



SUFFER THE
LITTLE CHILDREN TO
COME UNTO ME.



BOOYEAH.



OKAY NOT
WHAT I WAS
EXPECTING

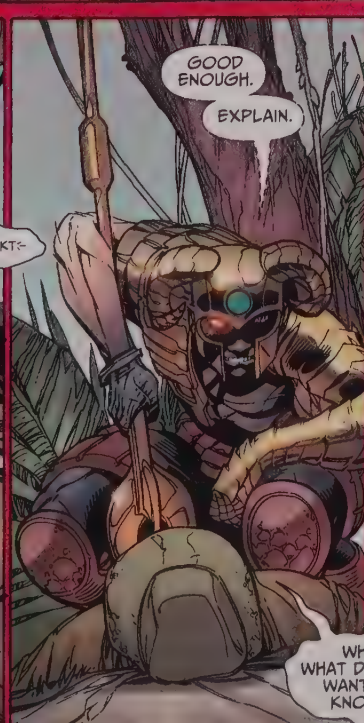
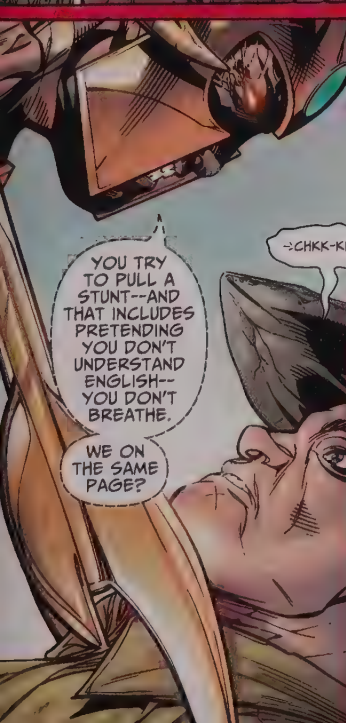
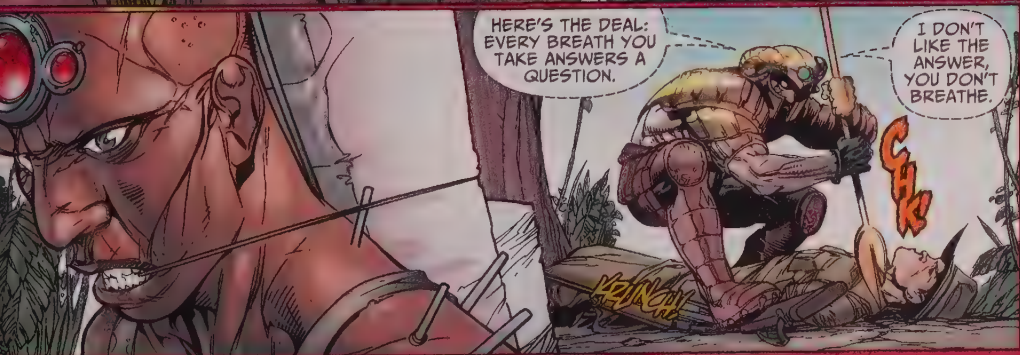
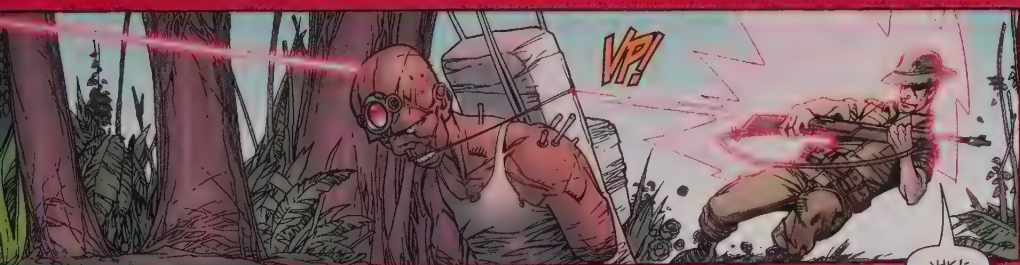


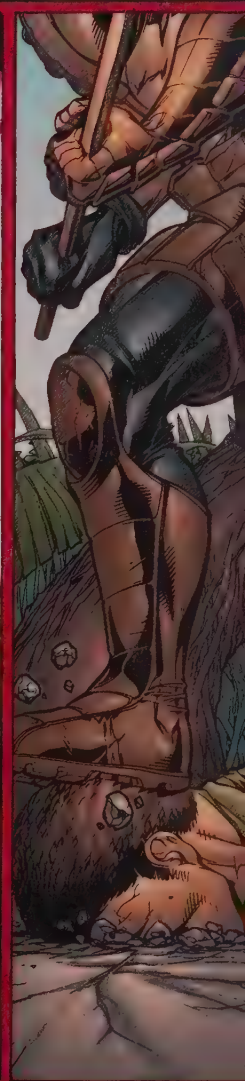
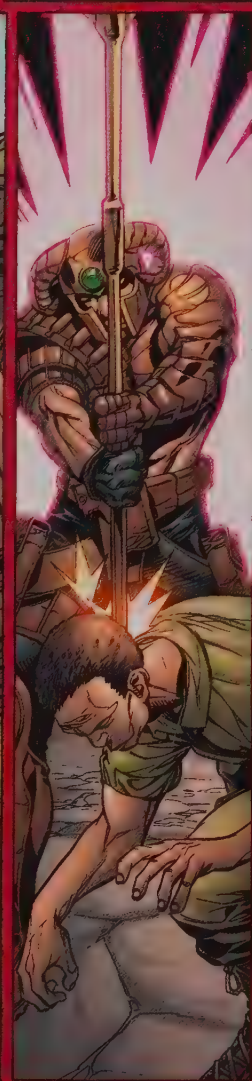
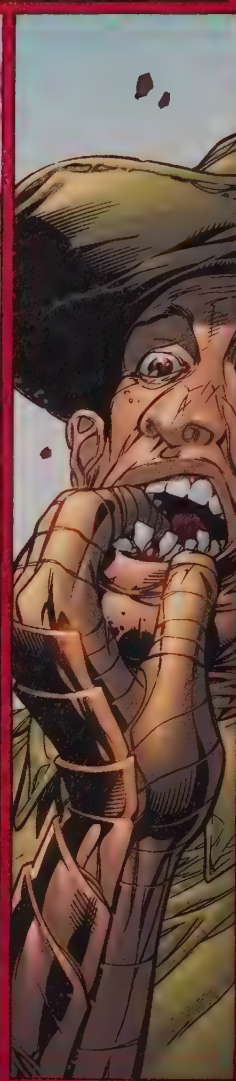
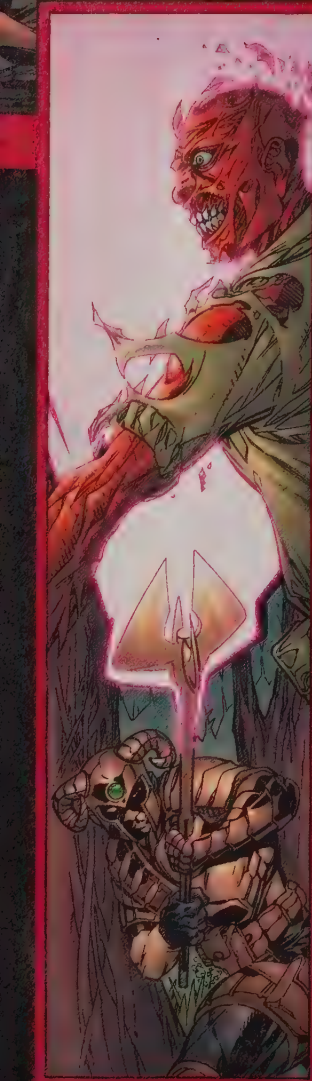
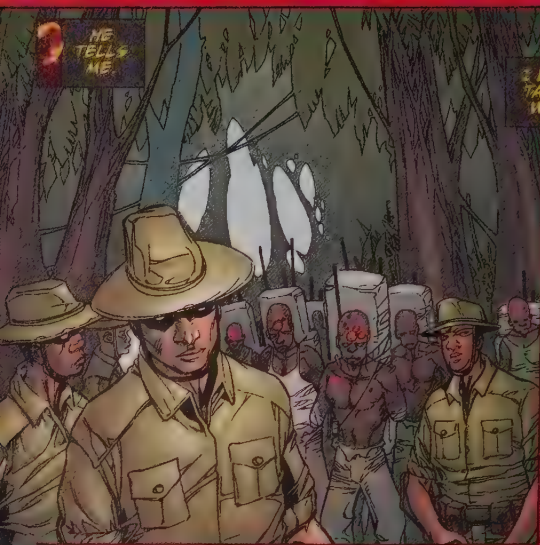
TAILGUNNER
LOOKS OLD
ENOUGH TO
KNOW BETTER.

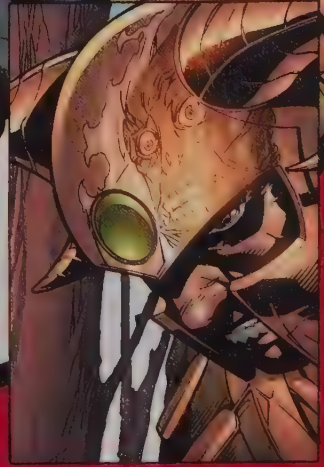
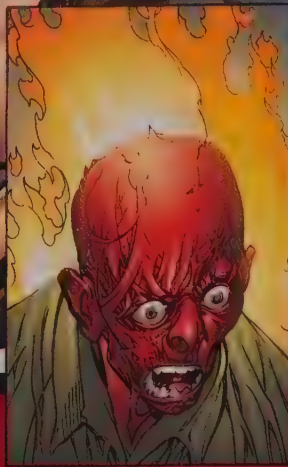
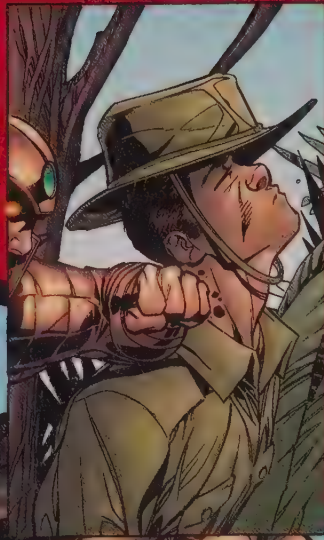
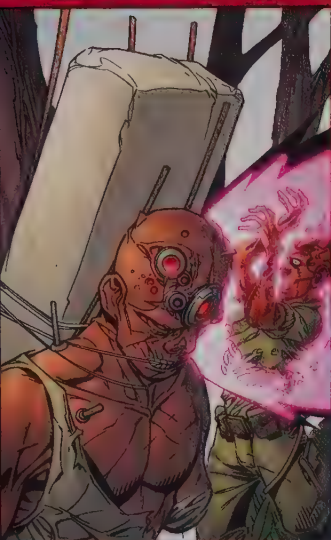


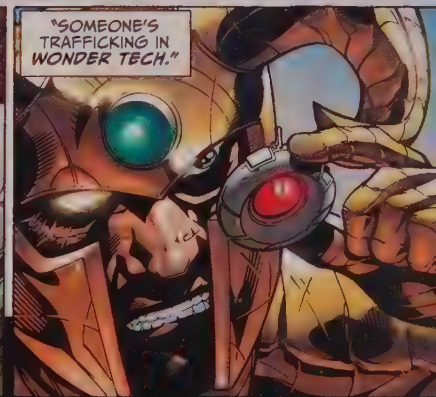
MAKES THE
NEXT MOVE THAT
MUCH EASIER.

I NEVER
WAS ALL
THAT GOOD
WITH KIDS.









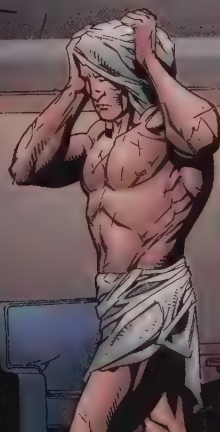
OMDURMAN,
SUDAN

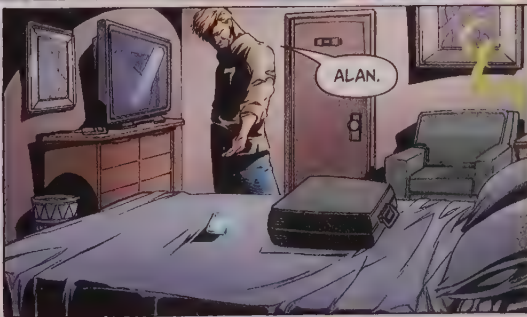
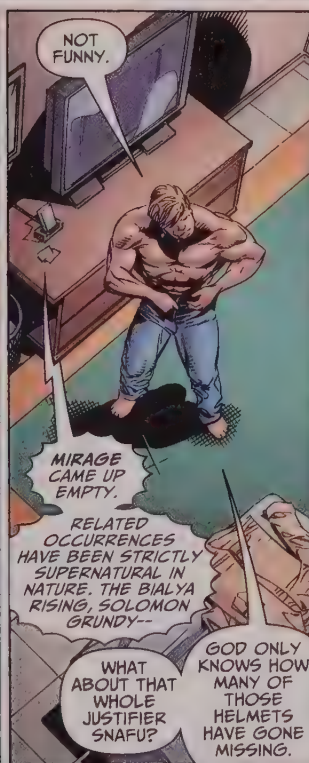
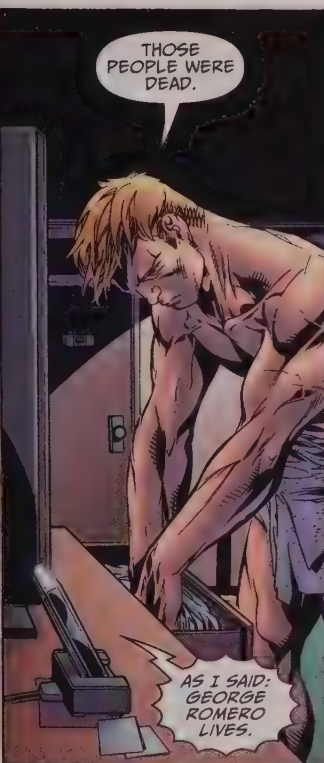
WONDER
TECH?

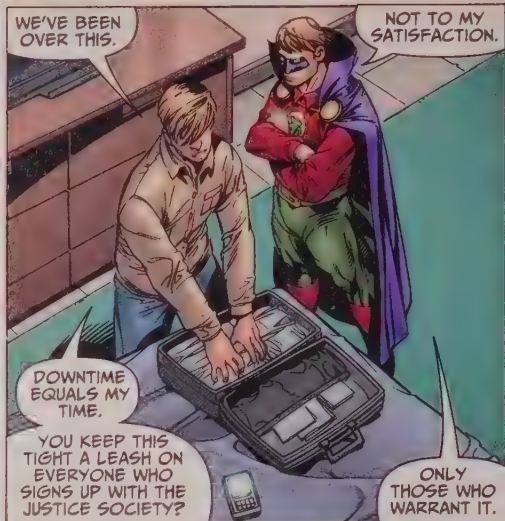
META STUFF.
THE CRAP LEFT
LYING AROUND ONCE
THE HEROES HAVE
SAVED THE DAY.

ARE WE TALKING
INTERGANG?
BECAUSE--

INTERGANG TENDS
TO WORK FROM THE TOP
DOWN. THIS GROUP'S
WORKING UP FROM
UNDERGROUND...







WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS.

NOT TO MY SATISFACTION.

DOWNTIME
EQUALS MY
TIME.

YOU KEEP THIS
TIGHT A LEASH ON
EVERYONE WHO
SIGNS UP WITH THE
JUSTICE SOCIETY?

ONLY
THOSE WHO
WARRANT IT.



IF THE
SHOE
FITS...

I PRIED THIS OFF
A WALKING DEAD
MAN, ZOMBIE...
WHATEVER.

LAST MONTH I RAN
AFOUL OF A RAGTAG
TERRORIST CELL
SPORTING PLASMA
ORDNANCE.

I'M NOT BIG ON
COINCIDENCE.

INTERGANG.



OUCH.

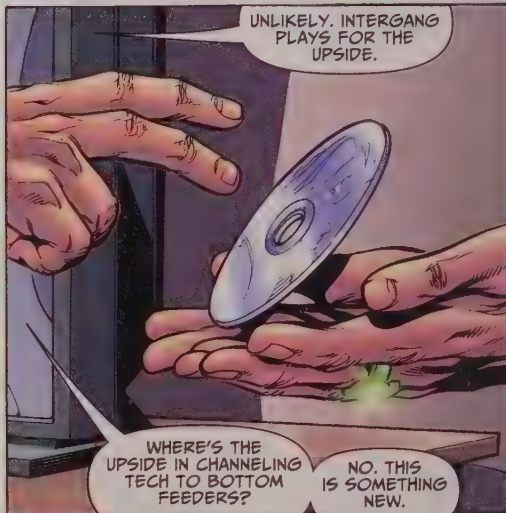
HOW MANY
DEAD?

YOU
HAD TO BE
THERE.

ENLIGHTEN
ME.

SOMEONE'S
PEDDLING WONDER TECH
TO THE WRONG PEOPLE.

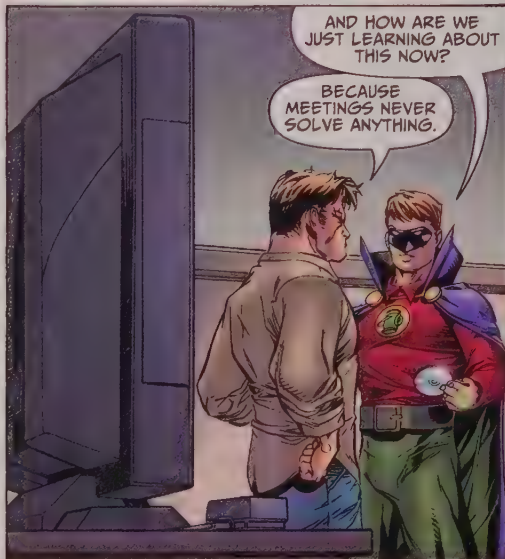
WONDER
TECH?



UNLIKELY. INTERGANG
PLAYS FOR THE
UPSIDE.

WHERE'S THE
UPSIDE IN CHANNELING
TECH TO BOTTOM
FEEDERS?

NO. THIS
IS SOMETHING
NEW.



AND HOW ARE WE
JUST LEARNING ABOUT
THIS NOW?

BECAUSE
MEETINGS NEVER
SOLVE ANYTHING.



AND GOING OFF
HALF COCKED?

OUCH
AGAIN.

WE ABOUT
DONE?

HOW MANY
DEAD?

ALAN
SCOTT.

GREEN
LANTERN
LITE.

NOT THAT I'D
EVER CALL HIM
THAT TO HIS FACE.

A GOOD MAN
ROOTED IN
NOBLE INTENT.

I DOUBT HIS WORLD
VIEW HAS CHANGED
MUCH SINCE HE FIRST
PUT ON THE RING BACK
WHEN HEROES WERE
HEROES AND VILLAINS
ROBBED BANKS.

WE GO A FEW
ROUNDS, STRICTLY
VERBAL, MIND YOU.

ALAN'S GOT THE
DISCONCERTING HABIT
OF THINKING THINGS
'INTO REALITY WITH
THAT RING OF HIS.

MY MAMA
DIDN'T RAISE
NO FOOL.

I GET ANOTHER LECTURE
ABOUT THE MEANS NOT
ALWAYS JUSTIFYING THE
ENDS, THREAT IMPLIED.

ALAN GETS
ANOTHER FISTFUL
OF HALFHEARTED
REASSURANCES,
WHATEVER GETS
HIM THROUGH
THE DAY.

I PASS ON A LIFT
HOME. HE LOOKED
MAID ENOUGH TO
"ACCIDENTALLY"
DROP ME INTO THE
OCEAN EN ROUTE.

I'M NOT ALL THAT
HIGH ON THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY'S FAVORITE
MEMBERS LIST.

I'D EVEN GO SO
FAR AS TO SAY
THEY BARELY
TOLERATE MY
PRESENCE.

BREAKS MY
HEART, THAT
DOES.

I USE THEM,
THEY USE ME, A
MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL
PARASITIC
RELATIONSHIP.

RESPECT
THAT'S A WHOLE
'NOTHER THING.

I KNOW IT
CAN'T LAST,
THEY KNOW IT
CAN'T LAST.
IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF
TIME.

TIME I CAN
PUT TO
GOOD USE.

WE HOPE YOU
HAVE ENJOYED
YOUR STAY,
MISTER GRANT.
DO COME
AGAIN.

CAN YOU SAY
"SURVEILLANCE,"
BOYS AND
GIRLS? I KNEW
YOU COULD.

GUESS SOME
PEOPLE GET
OFF ON
WATCHING.

HOPE THEY'RE
ENJOYING THE
SHOW.

SPEAKING OF
TIME, ALAN WAS
TOO QUICK ON
THE PICKUP
FOR COMFORT.

ODWELL,
WEST
VIRGINIA



HARD AT
WORK?

HAD TO
UNFOLD THE
CHAIR, THAT
COULDA
COUNT FOR
SOMETHING

YOU
GOT ANOTHER
WRITE UP.

WHAT'S
IT THIS
TIME?

MY SUPER SECRET
AFFAIR WITH POWER GIRL?
WORST-DRESSED LIST?
LATENT CANNIBALISTIC
TENDENCIES?

THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T
CARE.



COULD
POINT



SIGH

THE GOOD OL' BOY ANSWERS TO AXEL BAINES.

THE NAME'S AS BOGUS AS THE GOOD OL' BOY CHARADE. APPEARANCES DECEIVE AND THANK GOD FOR THAT.



WILLIAMSON
SIMONSON
Striping

ADAMS
ADAMS

AXEL'S THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO A FRIEND AND CONFIDANT.

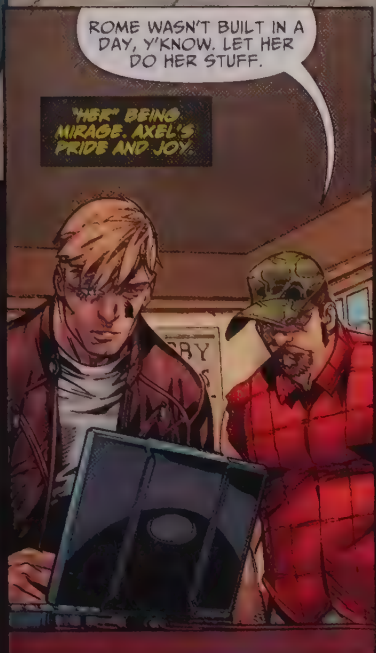
WE SERVED TOGETHER UNTIL AXEL OPTED FOR A SECTION EIGHT DISCHARGE.

PLAYED THE REAR ECHELON SHRINKS FOR ALL THEY WERE WORTH.

DECIDED HE WAS BATMAN. AND YES, IT WAS THAT FUNNY.

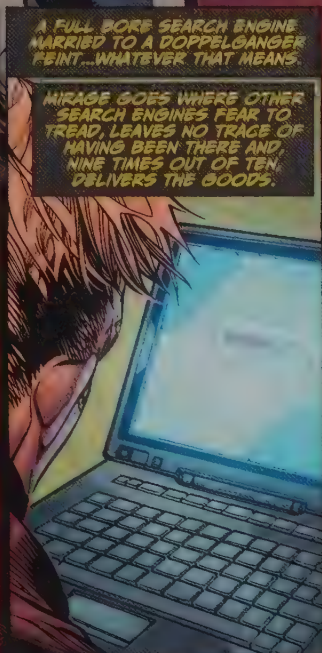
ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY, Y'KNOW. LET HER DO HER STUFF.

"HER" BEING MIRAGE. AXEL'S PRIDE AND JOY.



A FULL BORE SEARCH ENGINE MARRIED TO A DOPPELGÄNGER FEINT...WHATEVER THAT MEANS.

MIRAGE GOES WHERE OTHER SEARCH ENGINES FEAR TO TREAD, LEAVES NO TRACE OF HAVING BEEN THERE AND, NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, DELIVERS THE GOODS.



HOW LONG?

AS LONG AS IT TAKES. C'MON, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS?



KEY WORDS?

NEURAL OVERRIDE, ZOMBIE, PLASMA...YOU WANT THE WHOLE LIST?

PLASMA?

YOUR TERRORISTS. JUST IN CASE. WHAT? YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CONNECT THE DOTS?

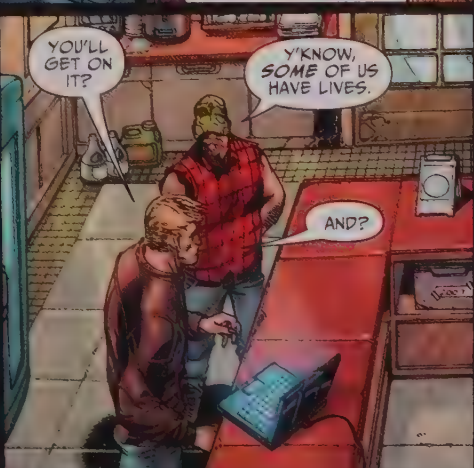
I THINK THE U.S.A. HAS ME UNDER SOME KIND OF SURVEILLANCE OR OTHER.

FANCY THAT.

YOU'LL GET ON IT?

Y'KNOW, SOME OF US HAVE LIVES.

AND?





"SIGH...I'LL
GET ON IT."

SIX MONTHS AND THE LOCALS
STILL SHOOT LOOKS MY WAY.
MORE CURIOSITY THAN FEAR, SO
PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.

THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THE
BOONIES. OKAY...WHY AXEL
CHOSE THE BOONIES.



PEOPLE TEND TO SEE TO
THEIR OWN BUSINESS AND
LET YOU SEE TO YOURS AS
LONG AS YOU'RE NOT
KICKING UP A RUCKUS.



WORKS FOR
ME, BUT
THERE'S A
DOWNSIDE TO
THAT KIND OF
THINKING.

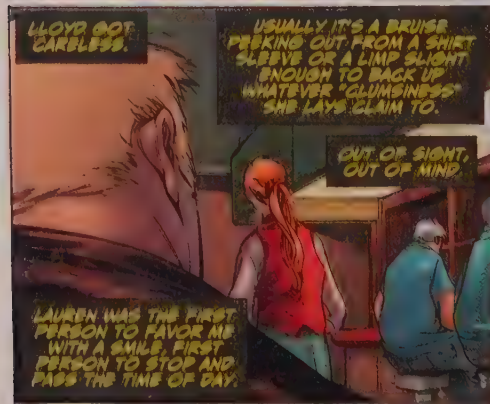
USUAL?

SOUNDS
ABOUT
RIGHT.
YOU'RE
OFF AT SIX?



BETTER
MAKE IT FIVE-
THIRTY. LLOYD'S
GOT A SHORT
SHIFT TODAY.

UH
HUH.



LLOYD GOT
CARELESS.

USUALLY IT'S A BRUISE
PEEKING OUT FROM A SHIRT
SLEEVE OR A LIMP SLIGHT
ENOUGH TO BACK UP
WHATEVER "CLUMSINESS"
SHE LAYS CLAIM TO.

OUT OF SIGHT,
OUT OF MIND.

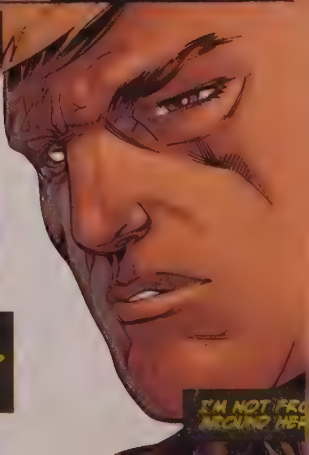
LAUREN WAS THE FIRST
PERSON TO FAVOR ME
WITH A SMILE, FIRST
PERSON TO STOP AND
PASS THE TIME OF DAY.

I TEND TO REMEMBER
THINGS LIKE THAT.

LAUREN'S SMART
ENOUGH TO KNOW
SHE MADE A BIG
MISTAKE.

SHE'S ALSO
SMART ENOUGH TO
KNOW THAT TRYING
TO CORRECT THAT
MISTAKE WOULD
BUY HER A WORLD
OF HURT--

--AND, LIKE I SAID,
PEOPLE AROUND
HERE TEND TO KEEP
OUT OF OTHER
PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS.



I'M NOT FROM
AROUND HERE

I BROUGHT IT UP. FIRST FEW TIMES SHE JUST SHUT ME DOWN WITH A LOOK OR CHANGED THE SUBJECT.

I LET IT RIDE UNTIL SHE GOT IT THROUGH HER HEAD THAT THERE WAS NO SECRET AGENDA AT WORK, THAT IT WAS CONCERN, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

SURE, I COULD HAVE BRACED HIM, POPPED A FEW BONES, GIVEN HIM A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE, BUT WHAT WOULD THAT ACCOMPLISH IN THE LONG RUN?

WE BECAME, IF NOT FRIENDS, THEN SOMETHING CLOSE ENOUGH TO COUNT.

LYDD'S GOT A PROBLEM AND IT'S NOT ME.

TOOK A WHILE TO SELL LAUREN ON IT, THOUGH.

ACTUALLY, IT TOOK AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN THE HOSPITAL COURTESY OF GOOD OL' LYDD.

SHE'S A QUICK STUDY. RAGE IS GREAT MOTIVATION, AND LAUREN'S GOT RAGE TO SPARE.

WE'VE BEEN AT IT FOR A FEW WEEKS NOW...WHenever I CAN SPARE THE TIME...WHenever SHE CAN GET AWAY WITHOUT SETTING OFF LYDD.

I LET HER TAG ME A FEW TIMES, JUST TO SEE WHAT SHE'S GOT.

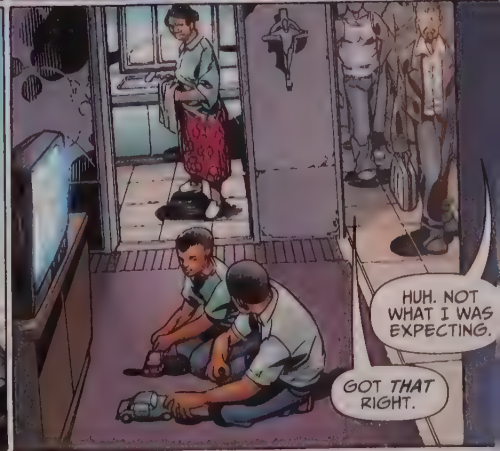
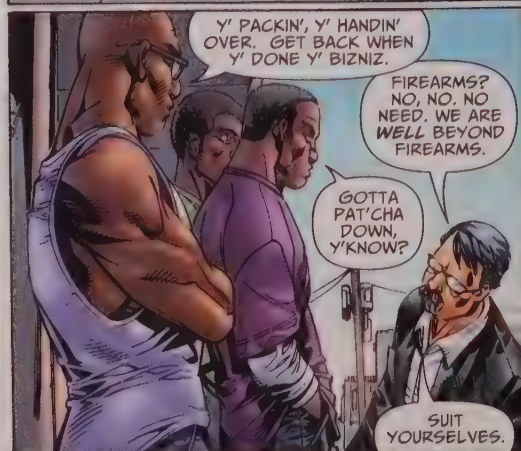
LAST TIME SHE DREW BLOOD. HER WHOLE FACE LIGHTS UP WHEN SHE SMILES.

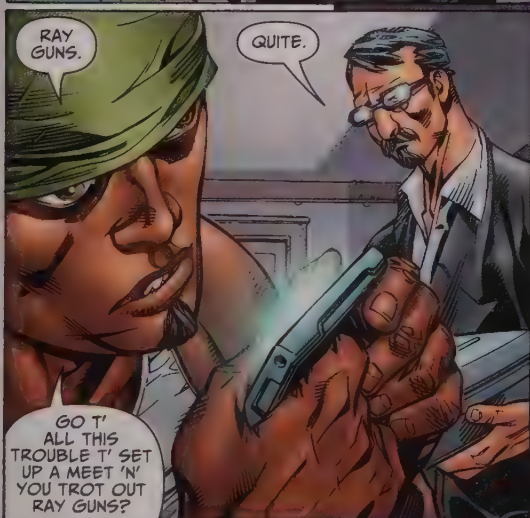
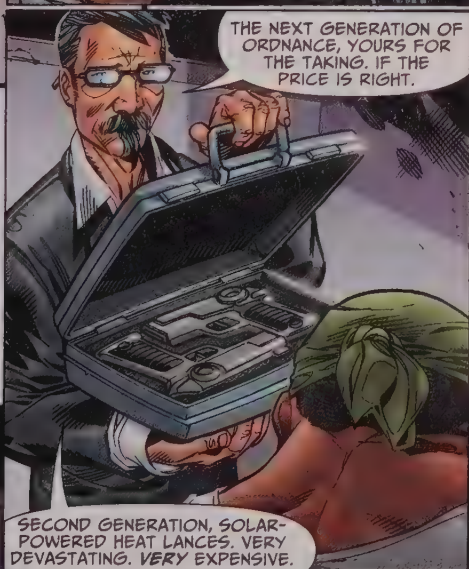
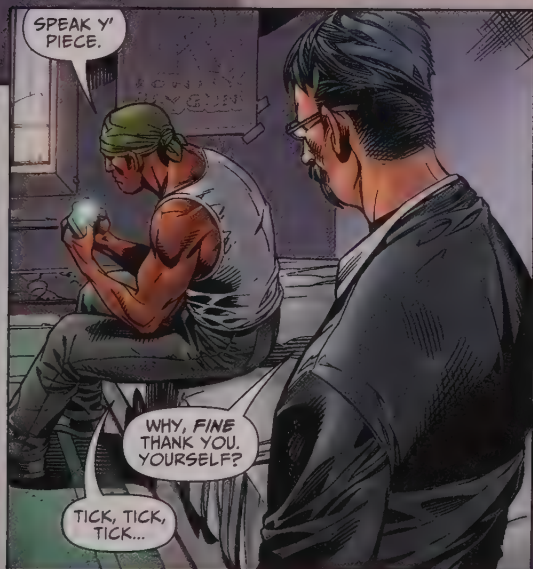
SHE'S WAITING IT OUT, BIDDING HER TIME.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LYDD WHEN SHE DECIDES SHE'S READY.

HOP I HOPE SHE PUTS THE GOOD OL' BOY OUT OF HER MISERY. IT'S HER CALL.

WONDER IF SHE'D CONSIDER LETTING ME WATCH.





ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR ALL OF YOUR NEXT GENERATION ORDNANCE NEEDS.

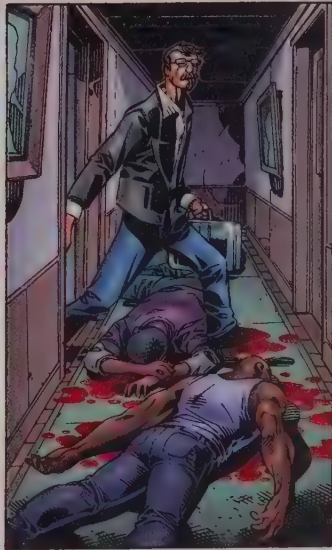
YEAH? WELL, I AIN'T IMPRESSED.



YOU'RE NOT
THE CLIENT.



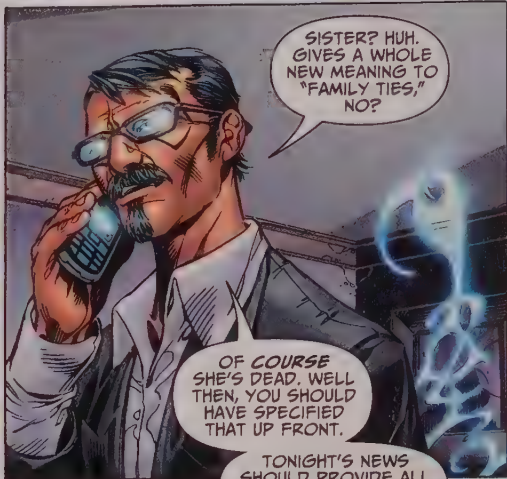
WH...KKK-HNKT...!



MEEP

AS
PROMISED.

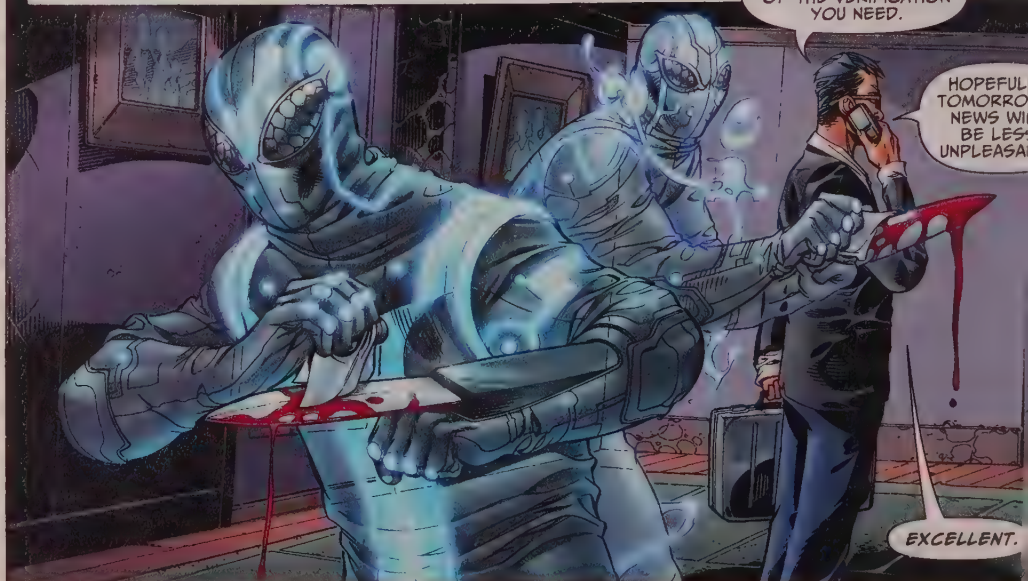
A BROAD
DAYLIGHT TAKEDOWN
IN, IF APPEARANCES
ARE TO BE BELIEVED,
SOME RELATIVE OR
OTHER'S HOME.



SISTER? HUH.
GIVES A WHOLE
NEW MEANING TO
"FAMILY TIES,"
NO?

OF COURSE
SHE'S DEAD. WELL
THEN, YOU SHOULD
HAVE SPECIFIED
THAT UP FRONT.

TONIGHT'S NEWS
SHOULD PROVIDE ALL
OF THE VERIFICATION
YOU NEED.



HOPEFUL
TOMORRO
NEWS WI
BE LES
UNPLESA

EXCELLENT.

NOTHING?

NIX, NIL,
NADA.

LET ME QUALIFY
THAT. MIRAGE TAGGED
THE USUAL SUSPECTS
ON INDIVIDUAL KEY
WORDS--

--EVEN MANAGED
TO DIG UP A FEW
MULTIPLE WORD HITS,
MOSTLY HAVING TO DO
WITH LEXCORP.

BIG
SURPRISE
THERE.

ACROSS-THE-
BOARD HITS?
NOTHING.

AS FAR AS THE INTERNET'S
CONCERNED, THAT LITTLE DOODAD
OF YOURS DOESN'T EXIST.

BUT WE KNOW
BETTER.

KNOW ANYONE
WHO CAN DISSECT THE
LITTLE BUGGER? MIGHT
GIVE US A BIT MORE
TO GO ON.

HUH? OH...
OH NO.

DON'T HAND ME THAT. YOUR CURIOSITY
MUST BE KILLING YOU.

WHAT IF I...I
MEAN THIS IS...WAY OUT
OF MY LEAGUE. I--

SOON,
AXEL.

AHHH,
GEEZ...

POST GOG
STARGAZING, EVERY
PINPRICK OF LIGHT A
POTENTIAL THREAT.

OKAY, THAT CHAIN
OF THOUGHT'S NOT
GOING TO GET ME
ANYWHERE.

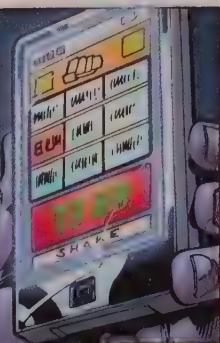
I HATE THIS KIND OF WAITING. IT LEAVES ME WITH TOO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS, AND THAT'S NEVER A GOOD THING.

SOMETIMES RANDOM IS A GOOD THING. ACT OUT OFTEN ENOUGH AND A PATTERN STARTS TO EMERGE. THAT HAPPENS AND POTENTIAL TARGETS START COVERING "WHAT IF" SCENARIOS.

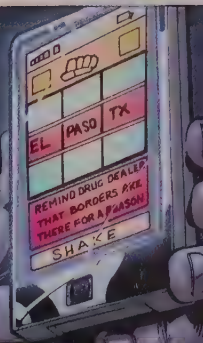


"MAGOG'S HITTING TERRORIST CELLS, WHAT IF HE HITS US?" THEY START ANTICIPATING EVENTUALITIES, PLANNING FOR "JUST IN CASE."

SAME GOES FOR MY SO-CALLED ALLIES.



GIVE THE U.S.A. A FIRM ENOUGH M.O. PROFILE AND THEY'RE LIKELY TO COME AT ME PROACTIVELY INSTEAD OF REACTIVE.



DID I MENTION WE DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE?



SHOCK AND AWE IT IS.

NOT THAT I'M FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE A WAR ON DRUGS CAN BE WON, NOT WHEN THE WAR'S FOUGHT BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND CONSUMERS.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE. NOW THAT'S A WHOLE OTHER MATTER.

TOO MANY INNOCENTS CATCHING TOO MANY BULLETS.

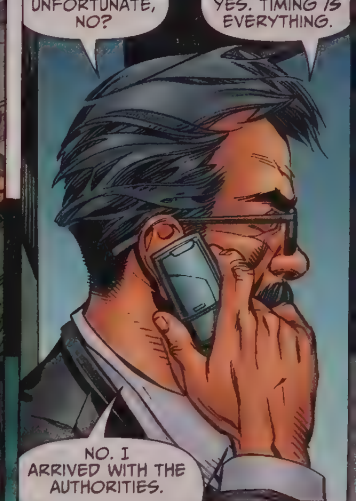
AGAIN, WHERE ARE ALL THE HEROES? HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE THE FLASH OR SUPERMAN TO PICK UP AND DISPOSE OF THE GARBAGE?

FIVE MINUTES?

EL PASO, TEXAS.

MEP HELL, I'VE
GOT ALL THE
TIME IN THE
WORLD.





UNFORTUNATE, NO?

YES. TIMING IS EVERYTHING.

NO. I ARRIVED WITH THE AUTHORITIES.

WHICHEVER ONE OF THEM DECIDED TO DROP BY WAS LONG GONE.

QUITE CERTAIN. WERE IT THE AUTHORITIES, THE STANDOFF WOULD STILL BE IN PROGRESS.

OUR PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS ARE NOTHING IF NOT WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL ARMED.

NOT AS WELL ARMED AS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD MY FLIGHT NOT BEEN DELAYED, BUT THERE YOU HAVE IT.



YES. I DO THINK IT WARRANTS LOOKING INTO. BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, NO?

I SUPPOSE WE'LL BURN THAT BRIDGE IF OR WHEN WE COME TO IT. DO KEEP ME POSTED.

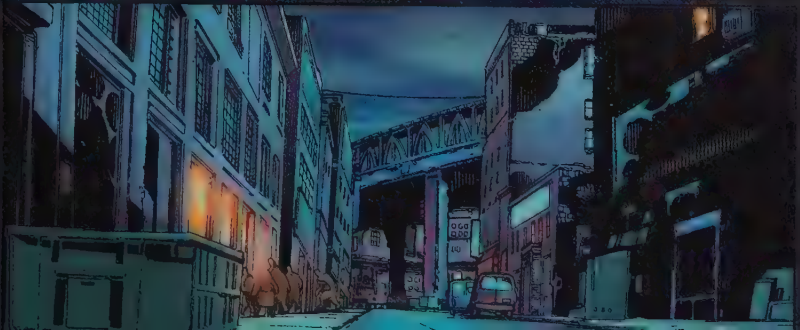
EXCELLEN

MIASMA





NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.





YOU WANT
TO KNOCK IT
OFF AND MAKE
YOURSELF
USEFUL
HERE?

WHAT? LEFT
YOUR SENSE
OF WONDER IN
YOUR OTHER
PANTS?

I GOT
YOUR "SENSE OF
WONDER" RIGHT
HERE.

AND I
GOT A POWER
COUPLING FLUTTER
IN NEED OF AN
EXTRA SET OF
HANDS.

GET
OVER HERE,
TYRO.



TYRO.
SIX MONTHS
IN AND I'M STILL
THE NEW GUY?
HOW'S THAT
FAIR?

SENIORITY AND "SENSE OF
WONDER" DON'T GO TOGETHER.
YOU STOP ACTING LIKE A YOKEL
IN THE BIG CITY AND MAYBE
WE'LL--

GUYS.
GUYS!
CHECK IT
OUT.

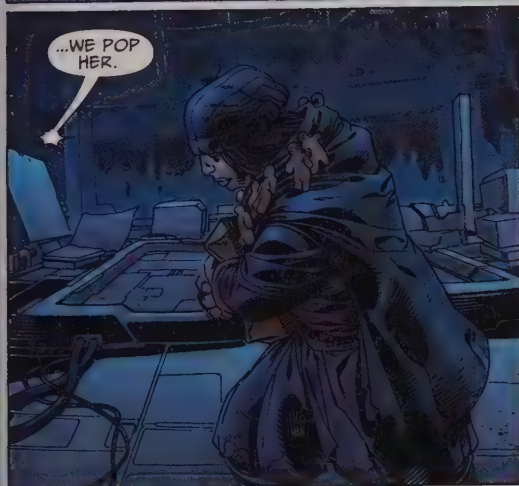
ANOTHER
ONE.



YOU GUYS
KNOW THE
DRILL.

SHE
FINDS A
PLACE TO
SLEEP IT
OFF. MORE
POWER TO
HER.

SHE GETS
TOO CLOSE TO
THE DISTORTION
FIELD...



...WE POP
HER.

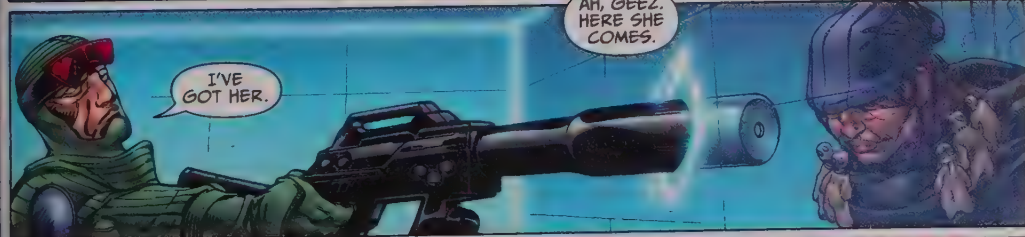


SCHE...
AIN'T SHE
A RIPE
ONE.

THEY'RE
ALL RIPE. IT'S
JUST A MATTER OF
DEGREES OF
RIPENESS.

ON A
SCALE OF ONE
TO TEN, THIS
ONE'S BUCKING
THIRTEEN.

AH, GEEZ.
HERE SHE
COMES.

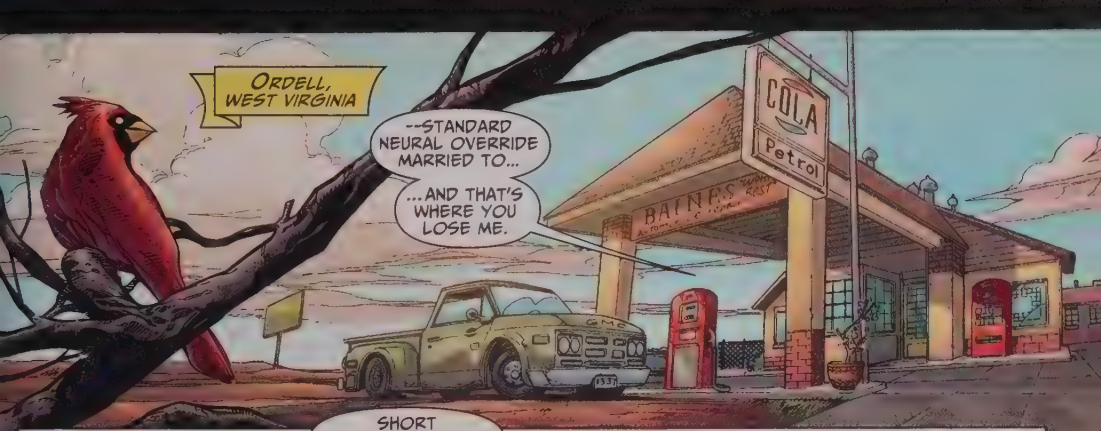


I'VE
GOT HER.



GENTLEMEN.





ORDELL,
WEST VIRGINIA

--STANDARD
NEURAL OVERRIDE
MARRIED TO...
...AND THAT'S
WHERE YOU
LOSE ME.



SHORT
FORM: YOU'VE GOT
NOTHING.

THERE'S DOODADS IN
THERE THAT I
COULDN'T PUT A
NAME TO IF MY
LIFE DEPENDED
ON IT.

BAD
MOJO.

MOJO...?

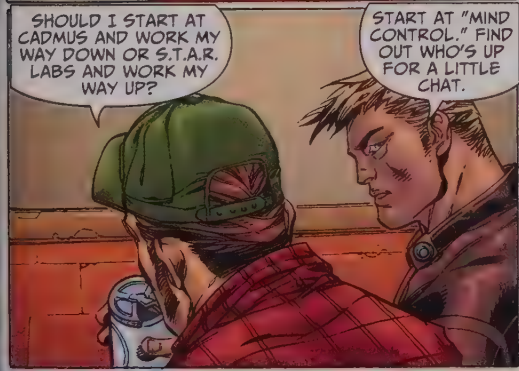


THAT'S MY
STORY AND
I'M STICKING
TO IT.

WE
TALKING
SOURCE
OF?

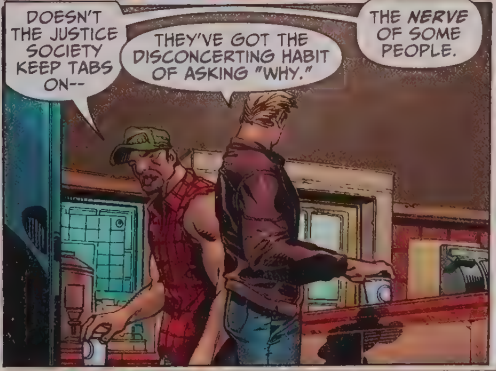
WHAT
ABOUT THE
"DOODADS"
YOU CAN PUT
A NAME
TO?

THAT
WOULD BE
NICE.



SHOULD I START AT
CADMUS AND WORK MY
WAY DOWN OR S.T.A.R.
LABS AND WORK MY
WAY UP?

START AT "MIND
CONTROL." FIND
OUT WHO'S UP
FOR A LITTLE
CHAT.



DOESN'T
THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY
KEEP TABS
ON--

THEY'VE GOT THE
DISCONCERTING HABIT
OF ASKING "WHY."

THE NERVE
OF SOME
PEOPLE.



I
KNOW.

I MEANT
THAT AS A
JOKE?

I'M SURE
YOU DID.

TWO DAYS AND NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT. I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE.

I KNOW, I'M NOT BUYING IT EITHER.

SOMEONE OUT THERE IS WAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE WHEN IT COMES TO WONDER TECH AND ISN'T SHY ABOUT SHARING IT AROUND.

AXEL'S SEEN JUST ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO SEE WHEN IT COMES TO JACKED-UP TECHNOLOGY. I'VE SEEN TO THAT.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN HURT YOU.

I'VE GOT OPEN ACCESS TO ONE OF THE SMARTEST MEN IN THE WORLD. MICHAEL HOLT, A.K.A. MR. TERRIFIC.

PROBLEM IS, I'M NEVER SURE WHICH MR. TERRIFIC'S GOING TO SHOW UP AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

CHECKMATE ISSUE. MR. TERRIFIC I CAN DEAL WITH. JUSTICE SOCIETY ISSUE. NOT SO MUCH.

MOST OF THE OTHER EGGHEADS ARE PLAYING FOR THE OTHER TEAM. SIVANA, LUTHOR, THE COOLONG ISLAND CONSORTIUM...

OH YOU SAY, "MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY'RE WORTH, BOYS AND GIRLS? I KNEW YOU COULD."

THAT MAKES AXEL MY "GO TO" GUY. NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, HE COMES THROUGH.

THAT ONE IN TE ROLLS AROUND AND IT'S BACK TO CRACKING HEADS. I HOPE THAT WHAT I NEED WILL SPILL OUT OF ONE.

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.

REMEMBER ME TELLING YOU THE ALTERNATOR NEEDS SEEING TO?

NO.

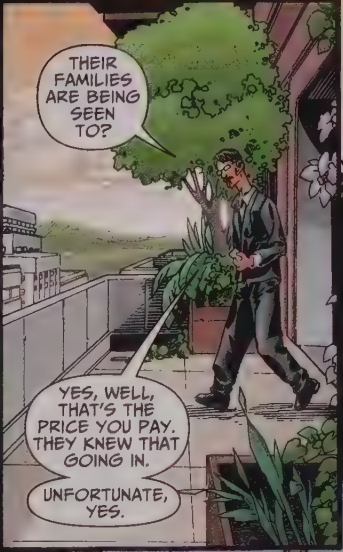
WELL, THE ALTERNATOR NEEDS SEEING TO.

DON'T HIT HIM.

HONOLULU, HAWAII



OF COURSE I'M CONCERNED.
NO? AND EXACTLY HOW SHOULD I SOUND?



THEIR FAMILIES ARE BEING SEEN TO?

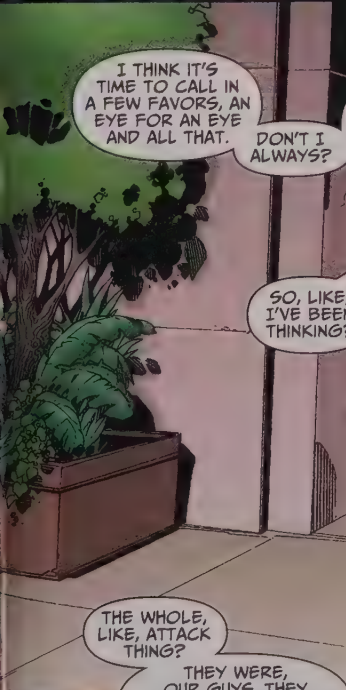
YES, WELL, THAT'S THE PRICE YOU PAY. THEY KNEW THAT GOING IN.
UNFORTUNATE, YES.



INTERGANG? THAT'S ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY.

LORD KNOWS THE SAVAGERY IS IN KEEPING WITH THE DOGMA THEY'VE EMBRACED.

CRIME BIBLE, YES, QUITE THE OXYMORON, DON'T YOU THINK?

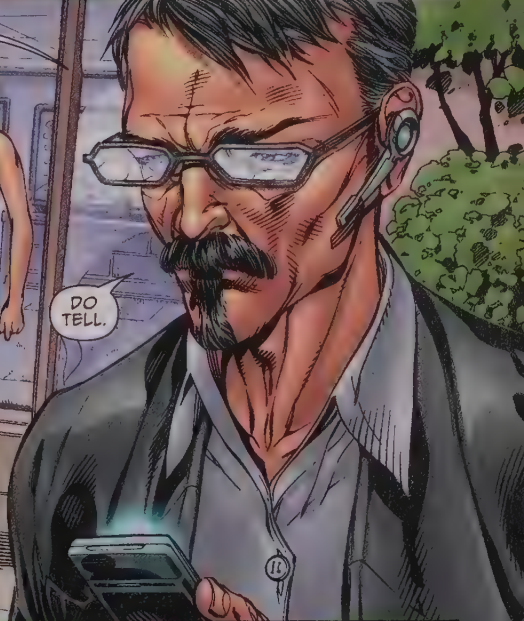


I THINK IT'S TIME TO CALL IN A FEW FAVORS, AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND ALL THAT.

DON'T I ALWAYS?

AH, CHELSEA. PERFECT TIMING.

SO, LIKE, I'VE BEEN THINKING?



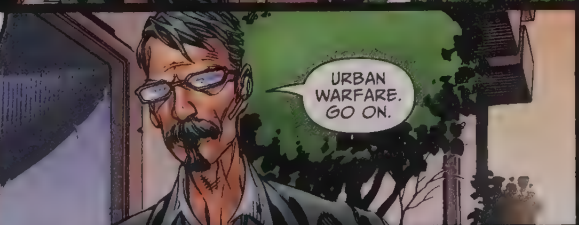
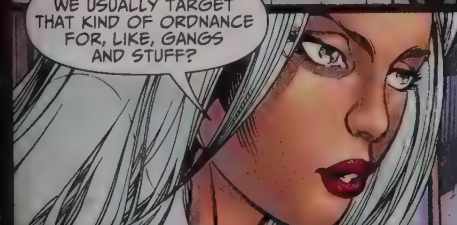
DO TELL.

THE WHOLE, LIKE, ATTACK THING?

THEY WERE, OUR GUYS, THEY WERE UPGRADING HAND-HELD PARTICLE BEAM ORDNANCE?



AND, Y'KNOW, WE USUALLY TARGET THAT KIND OF ORDNANCE FOR, LIKE, GANGS AND STUFF?



URBAN WARFARE. GO ON.

SO, DIDN'T WE, LIKE, FILL THAT CUSTOM ORDER?

AIRBORNE NANITE DISPERSAL KEYED TO LOW GRADE NEURAL OVERRIDE?

PART OF THE DEAL WAS PROTECTION, RIGHT?

YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE SUNDERLAND ACCOUNT.

UH HUH.

WASN'T THAT, Y'KNOW, ALL ABOUT URBAN WARFARE?

MR. SUNDERLAND--

HE, Y'KNOW, DOESN'T LIKE BE CALLED THAT ANYMORE?

MR. SUNDERLAND IS MORE CAPABLE PAYING FOR GOODS SERVICES

US AGAINST THEM, RIGHT? THAT'S, LIKE, HIS WHOLE THING?

AND YOU THINK...

WELL, WE ARE, LIKE, TECHNICALLY THEM. Y'KNOW, OVER-PEOPLE?

HIS CONTACT?

UM... 0274? THAT DETECTIVE... BANNIGAN?

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A FOLLOW-UP VISIT. CUSTOMER RELATIONS, IF YOU WILL.

AND SHOULD ANYTHING BE AMISS... WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT NOW, CAN WE?

A PLEASURE, CHELSEA, AS ALWAYS.

UH HUH.

BRRRT... BRRRT... BRRRT... BRRRT...

BATTERY PARK,
MANHATTAN

THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA.

JINGOISM
LIVES.

PART SENIOR
CITIZEN CENTER,
PART DAY CARE
CENTER. MY "HOME"
AWAY FROM HOME.

NOT THAT I'M GIVEN
MUCH CHOICE IN
THE MATTER.

IF YOU'RE J.S.A.,
YOU'RE EXPECTED
TO HOLD DOWN
THE FORT EVERY
NOW AND THEN.

SINCE I'VE GOT
NOTHING BETTER TO
DO TILL AXEL DIGGS
SOMETHING UP, MIGHT
AS WELL CLOCK
OFF TIME SERVED.

THE MOTOR-
MOUTH ANSWERS
TO MAXINE HUNKEL,
A.K.A. CYCLONE.

WHenever I'm
stuck here,
I gravitate
towards her.

WHAT CAN I SAY?
I'M A SUCKER
FOR FRECKLES.

AND
PRIVACY.
MAXINE
PROVIDES
BOTH.

THE OTHERS TEND
TO AVOID HER WHEN
SHE GETS CHATTY.

SHE GETS
CHATTY A
LOT.

I PRETEND TO
LISTEN, SHE KEEPS
THE OTHERS AT BAY.

I'M TEMPTED TO
SAY WE HAVE AN
UNDERSTANDING
BUT SHE DOESN'T
HAVE A CLUE.

OF COURSE
IT DOESN'T
ALWAYS WORK
OUT THAT WAY.

MAGOG,
CAN I HAVE
A WORD
WITH YOU?

JAY GARRICK,
ONE OF GOD-
ONLY-KNOWS-
HOW-MANY
FLASHES.

AND ONE OF THE FEW
PEOPLE ON THIS TEAM I
GRUDGINGLY RESPECT.

I'M
LISTENING.

MAXIE?

IGOTTIT.
GUYS TALK. I'M
OUT OF HERE.
CATCH YOU LATER,
LANCE.

IDON'TWORK
OUTWITHWEIGHTS,
Y'KNOW?MANARMS
ANDALLTHAT,SOIMOSTLY
STICKTOAEROBICSOR
CARDIOORLIKETHAT
BECAUSE...



THAT GIRL
COULD TALK THE
EARS OFF A
JACKRABBIT.

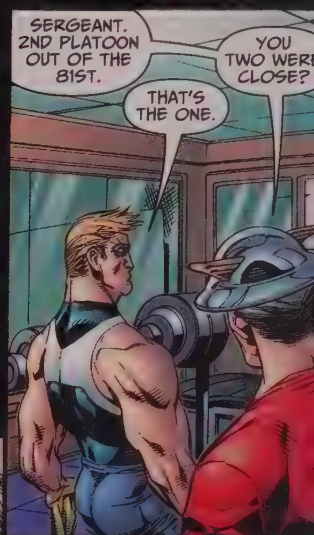
AMBULATORY
MUZAK. SHE'S A
GOOD KID.
SOMETHING
ON YOUR MIND?

LIKE I
HAVE TO
ASK



THE NAME
DAVID
BANNIGAN
MEAN
ANYTHING
TO YOU?

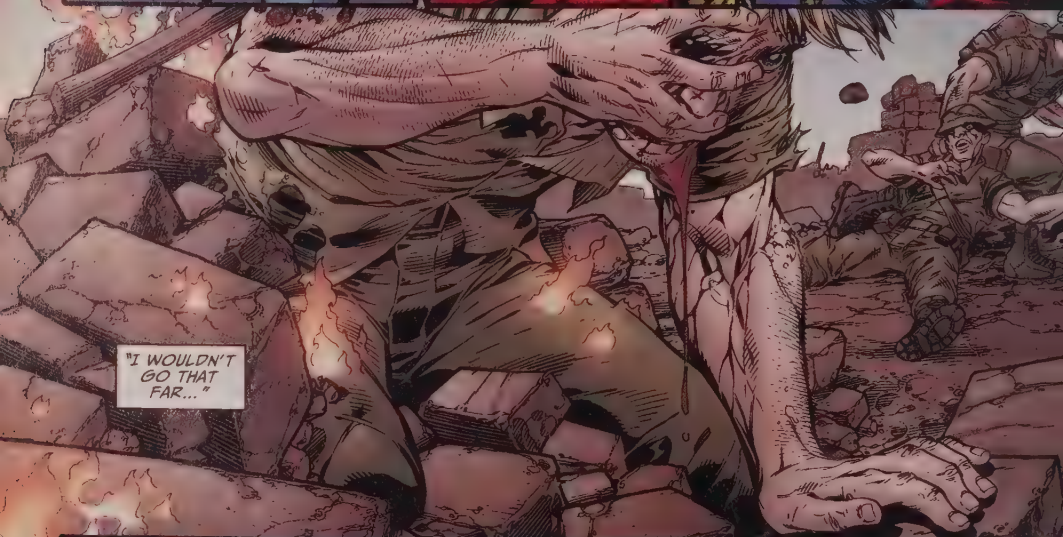
I SERVED
WITH A DAVID
BANNIGAN. WE
TALKING THE
SAME
MAN?



SERGEANT.
2ND PLATOON
OUT OF THE
BIST.

THAT'S
THE ONE.

YOU
TWO WERE
CLOSE?



"I WOULDN'T
GO THAT
FAR..."



... WHY
THE SUDDEN
INTEREST?



WE'D JUST AS
SOON YOU DIDN'T
GO OFF HALF
COCKED.

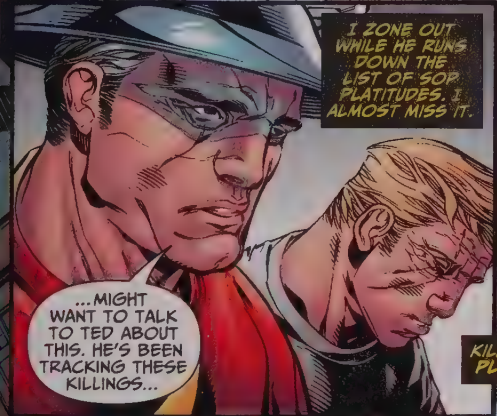
I START
PAYING
ATTENTION.

I TAKE MY CUE FROM JAY. HE STILL PLACES A PREMIUM ON THINGS LIKE SHARED FOXHOLES AND ESPRIT DE CORPS.

GUESS HE FIGURED THE MURDER OF AN OLD PLATOON "BUDDY" WOULD TRIGGER AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.

I DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM. I GIVE HIM WHAT HE EXPECTS. EQUAL PARTS UPSET AND ANGER.

THEN REIN IT IN A NOTCH AND LET HIM TALK ME DOWN.



I ZONE OUT WHILE HE RUNS DOWN THE LIST OF SOP PLATITUDES. I ALMOST MISS IT.

...MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO TED ABOUT THIS. HE'S BEEN TRACKING THESE KILLINGS...

KILLINGS? PLURAL?



HOW MANY?

HARD TO SAY. ABOUT A DOZEN THAT WE KNOW OF.

ALL TORN TO PIECES. YOU SHOULD TALK TO WILDCAT.

TED'S STILL SIMMERING ABOUT THE WHOLE PASSPORT THING, BUT SHOP TALK IS SHOP TALK. HE GETS OVER IT.



...MOSTLY LOW-LEVEL STREET TRASH, PIMPS, PUSHERS--

MOSTLY?

AN ILLEGAL TECH LAB WAS HIT. SAME NIGHT AS BANNIGAN BOUGHT IT.



SORRY IF THAT SOUNDED COLD, BUT YOUR BUDDY WAS AS DIRTY AS THEY COME.

INTERGANG WAS HIT?

LOOKS LIKE. PLACE WAS STRIPPED CLEAN, SO YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.

YOU WANT IN ON THIS?

I'LL PASS. STREET SCUM KILLING STREET SCUM? I CAN GET BEHIND THAT.

YEAH. I'LL BET.

LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE.





I SKIP THE FUNERAL

DIDN'T MUCH
LIKE THE MAN
WHEN HE
WAS ALIVE.

DEAD DOESN'T
CHANGE ANYTHING.
CORRUPT IS
CORRUPT.

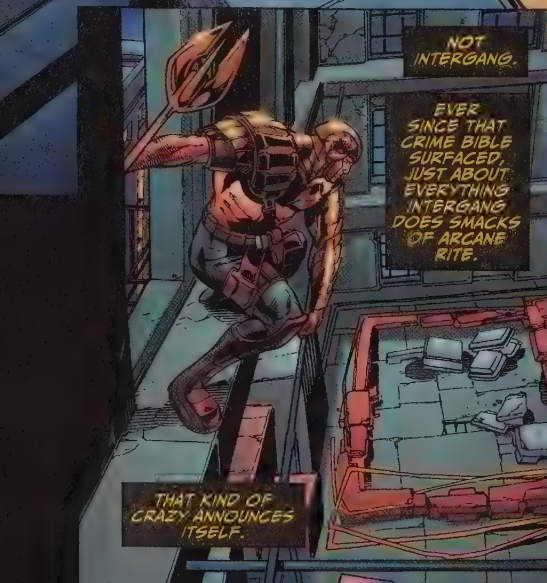
I GIVE AXEL A
HEADS UP, JUST IN
CASE HE WANTS TO
PAY HIS RESPECTS.

WE BOTH GET
A GOOD LAUGH
OUT OF THAT.

AXEL WALKS
"MIRAGE" THROUGH
THE POLICE
RECORDS.

SHE KICKS BACK
THE ONLY ADDRESS
I'M INTERESTED IN.

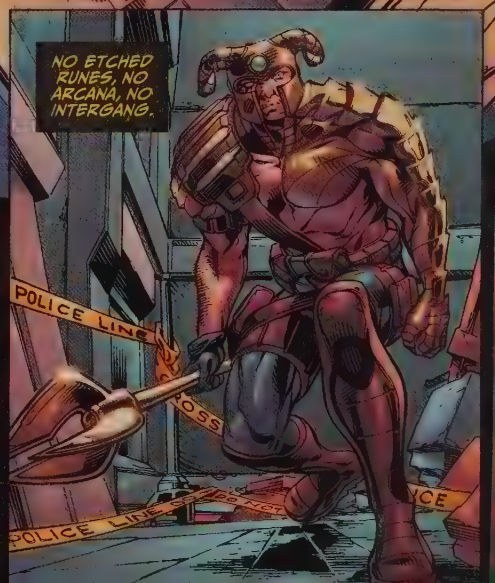
I NEVER PUT
MUCH STOCK IN
SERENDIPITY,
BUT A MAN
CAN HOPE.



NOT
INTERGANG.

EVER
SINCE THAT
CRIME BIBLE
SURFACED,
JUST ABOUT
EVERYTHING
INTERGANG
DOES SMACKS
OF ARCAINE
RITE.

THAT KIND OF
CRAZY ANNOUNCES
ITSELF.



NO ETCHED
RUNES, NO
ARCAINE, NO
INTERGANG.



MAGOG.

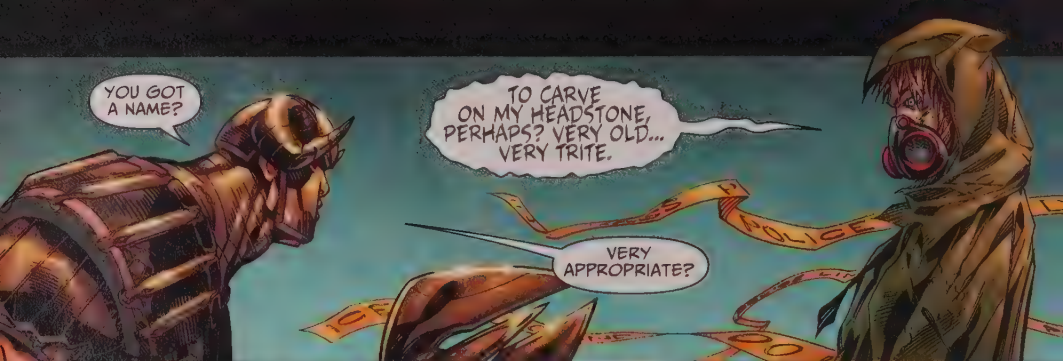
IT IS MAGOG?
THERE ARE SO MANY OF
YOUR KIND...VERY HARD
TO KEEP TRACK.

YOU...
WERE NOT
EXPECTED.

YOU ARE
NOT A PART
OF THIS...UNLESS
YOU CHOOSE
TO BE.

VERY
UNWISE...
CHOOSING
TO BE.

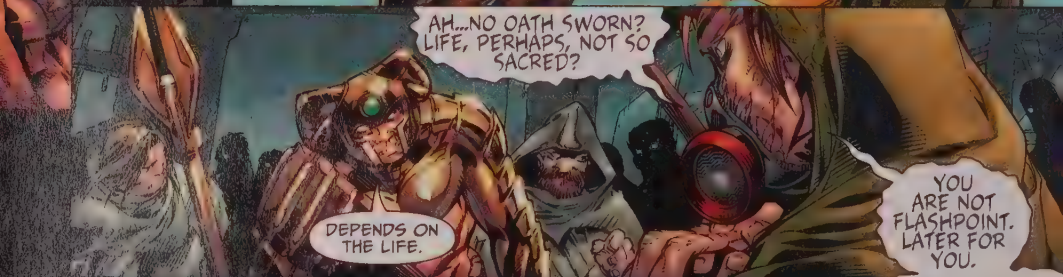
IT'S TIMES
LIKE THIS
THAT I
WISH I WAS
A MOUTH
BREATHER.



YOU GOT
A NAME?

TO CARVE
ON MY HEADSTONE,
PERHAPS? VERY OLD...
VERY TRITE.

VERY
APPROPRIATE?



AH...NO OATH SWORN?
LIFE, PERHAPS, NOT SO
SACRED?

DEPENDS ON
THE LIFE.

YOU
ARE NOT
FLASHPOINT.
LATER FOR
YOU.



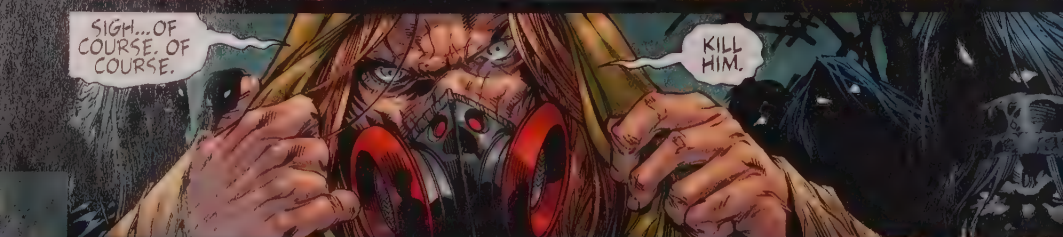
FLASHPOINT.
THAT WHERE YOU
GOT THE FANCY
FACE-WEAR?

NO MORE
QUESTIONS.
GO.

LATER
FOR YOU AND
YOUR KIND.

AFRAID
I CAN'T DO
THAT.

PRIORITIES, YOU
UNDERSTAND.

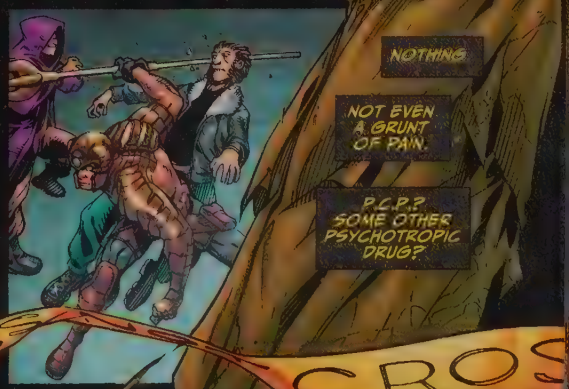
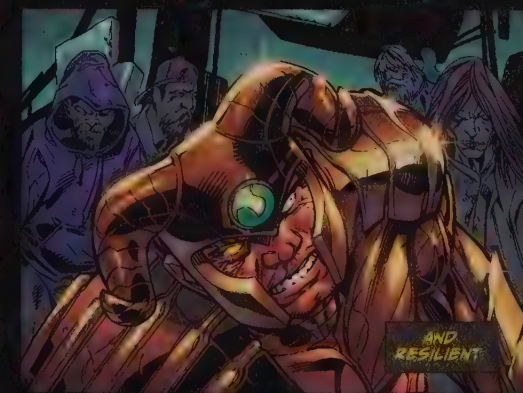


SIGH...OF
COURSE, OF
COURSE.

KILL
HIM.



OF
COURSE.





I COUNT BETTER THAN
A DOZEN BROKEN
BONES, ARMS, LEGS.

NONE OF
THEM SO MUCH
AS WINCED.

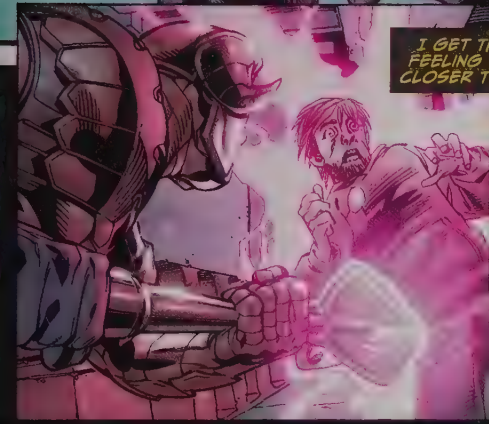
"MEAT
MACHINES."

AXEL'S
WORDS.
NOT MINE.

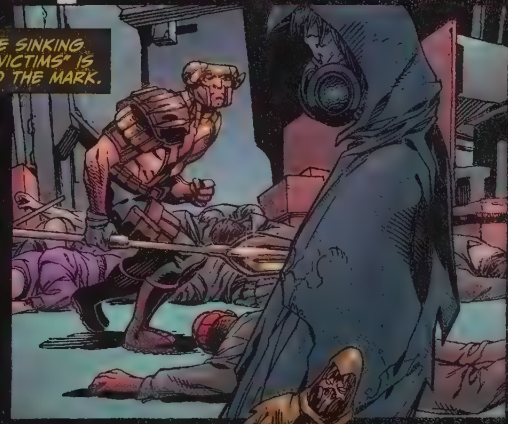
AS EUPHEMISMS
FOR "ZOMBIE" GO,
NOT TOO SHABBY.



ZOMBIES. I
SHOULD BE
SO LUCKY.

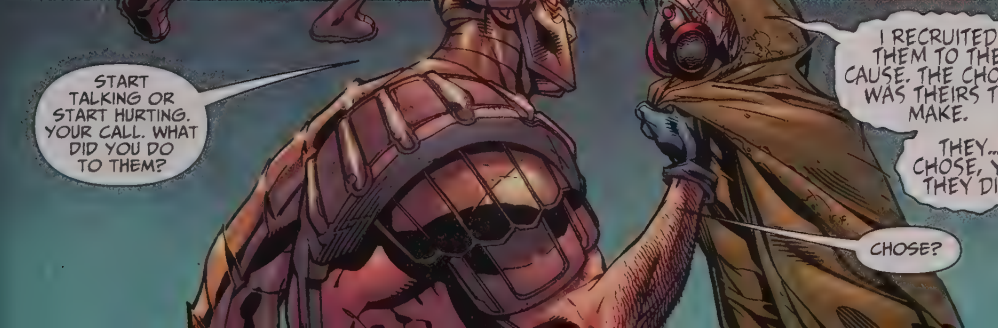


I GET THE SINKING
FEELING "VICTIMS" IS
CLOSER TO THE MARK.



AND THEN
THERE WAS
ONE.

IMPRESSIVE...
YES, VERY
MUCH SO.

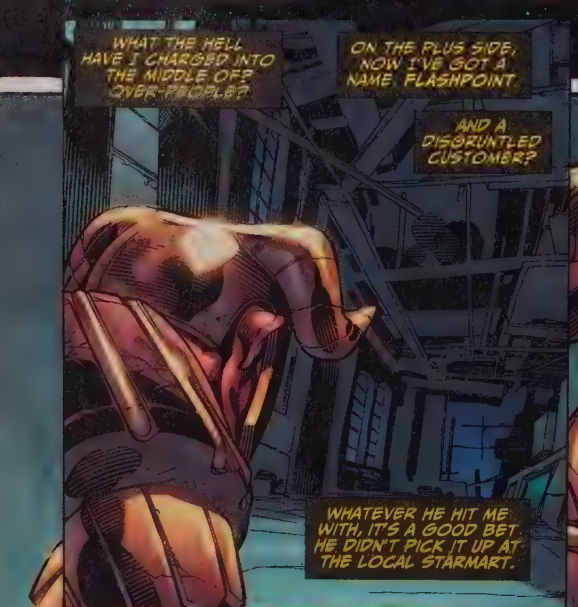
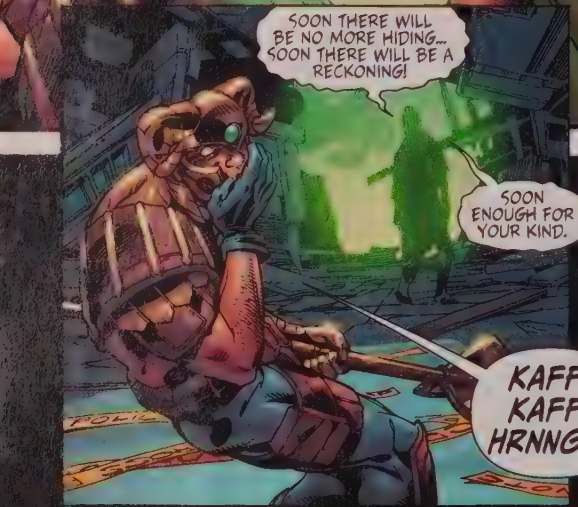


START
TALKING OR
START HURTING.
YOUR CALL. WHAT
DID YOU DO
TO THEM?

I RECRUITED
THEM TO THE
CAUSE. THE CHOICE
WAS THEIRS TO
MAKE.

THEY...
CHOSE. YES
THEY DID.

CHOSE?



HAVEN, U.S.A.

HAVEN, WHEN IT COMES TO MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS, QUITE POSSIBLY THE WORST IDEA EVER.

ENVIRONMENT AS SUBLIMINAL MOTIVATOR, WHO COMES UP WITH THIS GARBAGE?

I'M MORE A MAKE-
THEM-LIVE-IN-
TENTS-AND-WEAR-
PINK-UNDERWEAR
KIND'A GUY.

SOMEONE WITH WAY
TOO MUCH COMPASSION
AND WAY TOO LITTLE
COMMON SENSE ARRANGED
FOR THE TRANSFER--

--BELLE REVE TO
HAVEN. I'LL HAVE
TO SEE TO THAT
BEFORE I LEAVE.

MAGOG.
MAJUL. SON OF
JAPHETH. DARK
HARBINGER.

MAN, GOD
OR, IF THE BIBLE
IS TO BE BELIEVED,
PRIME PARCEL OF
REAL ESTATE.

AXEL CAME
UP WITH
THE NAME.

ONE OF ABOUT
HALF A DOZEN
LOWLIFES KNOWN
TO TRAFFICK IN
SOME FORM OF
MIND CONTROL
OR OTHER.

SINCE I'M
FISHING FOR
INFORMATION, I
OPT FOR THE
BIGGEST FISH.

HECTOR
HAMMOND.

WHAT
COLOR ARE
YOUR EYES...
EYE?

IF IT WASN'T FOR
THE NEUTRALIZING
FILAMENTS WORKED
INTO EVERY SURFACE--

--HE'D BE IN MY
HEAD DOING GOD
KNOWS WHAT.

HAZEL.
BLUE.
DOES IT
MATTER?

I'VE A
MARKED...
AVERSION TO
THE COLOR
GREEN.

THIS IS
ME NOT
CARING.

FLIES
COME TO
HONEY, NOT
VINEGAR.

STILL NOT
CARING.



~Sighs...
I SUPPOSE
ANY COMPANY
IS PREFERABLE
TO NONE.

MIND
CONTROL.

I HAVE
BEEN KNOWN
TO DABBLE
IN IT.

THE ENHANCING
TECHNOLOGY--



I GIVE
HIM THE
CLIFFS NOTES
VERSION OF MY
AFRICAN ADVENTURE

I DON'T
SUPPOSE
I COULD...
SEE THIS
DEVICE?

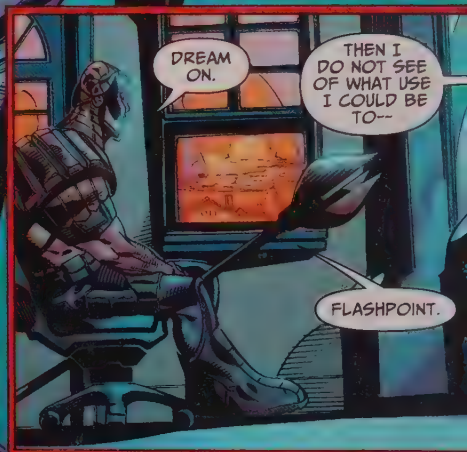


AN
UNFORTUNATE
NECESSITY DUE
TO RANGE
LIMITATIONS.

ESPECIALLY
WHEN DEALING
WITH THE
DEAD?

THAT WAY
LIES MADNESS.
I DO NOT
TRAFFIC IN THE
SUPERNATURAL.

I GIVE HIM THE
CLIFFS NOTES
VERSION OF MY
AFRICAN ADVENTURE



DREAM
ON.

THEN I
DO NOT SEE
OF WHAT USE
I COULD BE
TO--

FLASHPOINT.

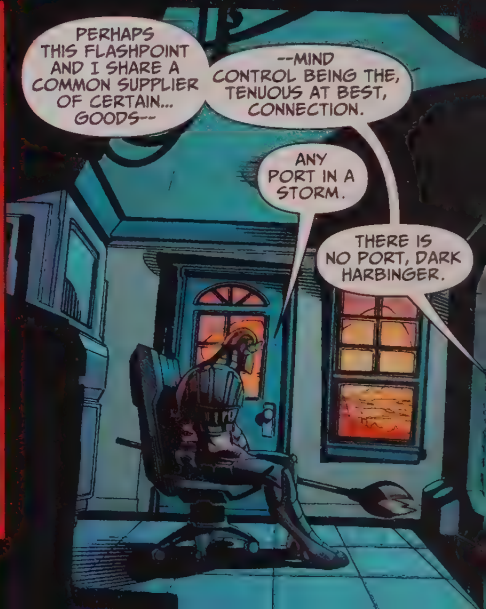


GO
ON.

NEVER
HEARD OF
THEM?

SHOULD
I HAVE?

AH. I SEE.
SUPPLIERS.



PERHAPS
THIS FLASHPOINT
AND I SHARE A
COMMON SUPPLIER
OF CERTAIN...
GOODS--

--MIND
CONTROL BEING THE,
TENUOUS AT BEST,
CONNECTION.

ANY
PORT IN A
STORM.

THERE IS
NO PORT, DARK
HARBINGER.





... JUSTICE
SOCIETY CLEARANCE
DOES NOT EXTEND TO
ASSAULTING AN
INMATE!

AND HECTOR
HAMMOND? HIS
CEREBRAL RANGE
ENCOMPASSES
THIS ENTIRE
FACILITY!

YOU PRACTICALLY
DELIVERED HAVEN TO
HIM ON A SILVER
PLATTER!

HE
HAD MORE
IMPORTANT
THINGS ON
HIS MIND.

MORE
IMPORTANT?

PAIN
IS A PROVEN
MOTIVATOR.

WE DO
NOT TORTURE
HERE!

YOU
WEREN'T.

I SHOULD ARREST
YOU HERE AND NOW,
JUSTICE SOCIETY
BE DAMNED!

AND?

THAT'S
NOT MY CALL
TO MAKE! THE
WARDEN--

WAS TRYING TO ENJOY
HIS FIRST VACATION IN
THREE YEARS. I SUPPOSE
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
BETTER.

WHAT'S ALL
THIS ABOUT
NOW?

ANGER MANAGEMENT





NO GOOD
DEED GOES
UNPUNISHED.

WHAT STARTED OFF AS A
SIMPLE SLAPDOWN JUMPED THE
TRACKS AND LANDED ME DEAD
CENTER IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

I SHOULD
KNOW
BETTER.

ONCE YOU BUY
INTO THIS SO-CALLED
"LIFESTYLE," "SIMPLE" NO
LONGER APPLIES.

RAY GARRICK--THE ONLY FLASH
THAT COUNTS, IN MY HUMBLE
OPINION--INADVERTENTLY
DROPS A LEAD ON ME.

I SAY "INADVERTENTLY"
BECAUSE I NEGLECTED
TO INFORM THE J.S.A.
ABOUT THE WHOLE
"WONDER TECH" THING.

I NEVER
WAS MUCH
OF A TEAM
PLAYER.

I COME AWAY WITH A
NAME. FLASHPOINT.

I FIGURE I'LL
ASK AROUND, SEE
IF THE NAME
RINGS ANY BELLS.

I'VE ALREADY
STUMBLER ACROSS
TWO EXAMPLES OF
MIND CONTROL...AND
MIND CONTROL'S A
PRETTY EXCLUSIVE
CLUB.

AXEL
POINTS ME
AT HECTOR
HAMMOND.

SOMEONE'S
TRAFFICKING
IN WONDER
TECH.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS NEED NOT
APPLY. THERE'S A NEW PLAYER
OUT THERE, AND HE'S NOT TOO
PICKY ABOUT HIS CUSTOMER BASE.

I PUT AXEL
TO WORK
ON IT.

TURNS OUT THE SAME DAY A MANHATTAN-
BASED, ILLEGAL TECH LAB WAS HIT.
AN OLD CORPS "BUDDY" TURNED "DIRTY"
COP WAS TAKEN DOWN.

SAME
M.O.

I CONNECT A FEW DOTS AND WIND UP
GOING A FEW ROUNDS WITH A GROUP OF
FERAL HOMELESS FRONTED BY SOME
CLOWN CALLS HIMSELF MIASMA.

I OVERCOME HIS
INITIAL RELUCTANCE.

I COME AWAY WITH
NOTHING, UNLESS
YOU COUNT THE
DRESSING-DOWN
THE HAVEN MUCKS
LAID ON ME.

ON THE PLUS
SIDE, I GOT
HAMMOND
BOUNCED BACK
TO BELLE REVE.

ON THE MINUS SIDE...
LET'S JUST SAY I WON'T
BE DROPPING IN ON THE
J.S.A. ANYTIME SOON.

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME
THAT THE MOST ACCESSIBLE
PERSON IS THE PERSON
LEAST DESERVING OF THE
DRUBBING HEADING THEIR WAY.

I BEG TO
DIFFER.

AIDING AND ABETTING BUYS
THE SAME WORLD OF HURT AS
PLANNING AND EXECUTION.

JUST FOLLOWING
ORDERS? BEEN
THERE, DONE THAT.

IT NEVER
ENDS WELL.





SINCE HAVEN CAME UP A
BUST, I FALL BACK ON
AN OLD STANDBY:
CONNECTING THE DOTS.

MIASMA GETS THE
DUBIOUS HONOR
OF BEING THE
CLOSEST DOT I
KNOW OF. I HIT
THE STREETS

FEAR'S A DECENT
ENOUGH MOTIVATOR

THE TRICK IS TO MAKE THEM
FEAR YOU MORE THAN THEY
FEAR WHATEVER'S OUT THERE.

I STOP SHORT
OF GETTING
PHYSICAL.

MORE THAN A FEW
OF THE GUYS I SERVED
WITH WOUND UP ON THE
STREET. GRATEFUL
NATION AND ALL THAT.

I'M POINTED
UNDERGROUND.

MOLE PEOPLE;
AND I'M NOT TALKING
THAT CHEESY
HORROR MOVIE.

RAIDING PARTIES, HIT-AND-RUN ST
SOMEONE'S GETTING THEM ORGAN
FOR ALL THE WRONG REASON

WHEN IN
DOUBT, DR
THEM OUT

AS FALLBACK POSITIONS
GO, THAT'D BE THE ONE
I'VE GROWN MOST
COMFORTABLE WITH.

KICK UP A BIG
ENOUGH FUSS AND
YOU'RE BOUND TO
BUMP UP AGAINST
SOMEONE'S
SELF-INTEREST.

IF YOU'RE LUCKY, IT'S
THE SOMEONE YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR.

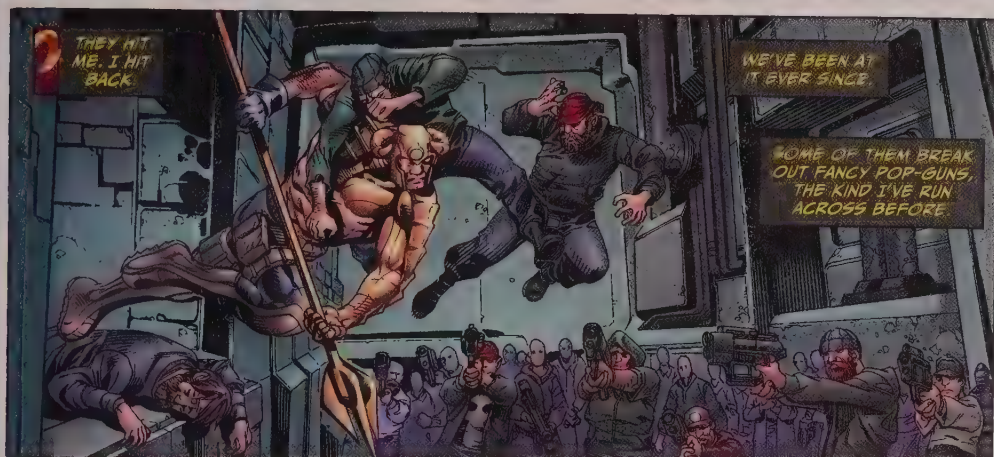
IF NOT, ODDS ARE
WHOEVER YOU DRAW OUT
HAD IT COMING ANYWAY.

I GOT
LUCKY.

DIDN'T TAKE MUCH
EFFORT ON MY
PART. APPARENTLY,
JUST SHOWING UP
WAS ENOUGH.

IT LOOKED LIKE A T
SMELLED LIKE A T
AND FELT LIKE A T

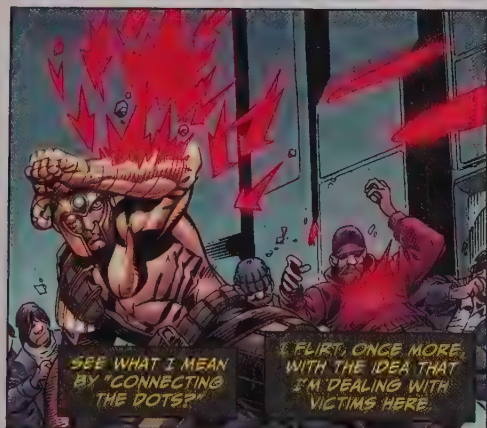
MISSION
ACCOMPLISH



THEY HIT
ME. I HIT
BACK.

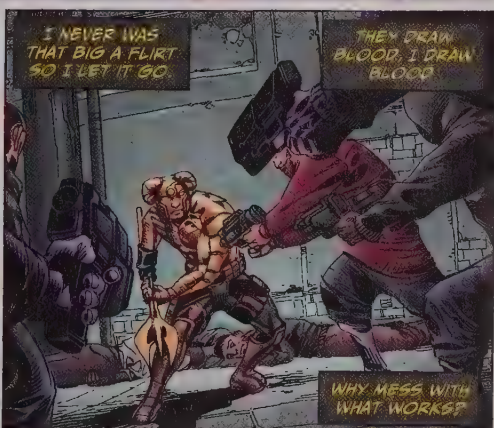
WE'VE BEEN AT
IT EVER SINCE.

SOME OF THEM BREAK
OUT FANCY POP-GUNS.
THE KIND I'VE RUN
ACROSS BEFORE.



SEE WHAT I MEAN
BY "CONNECTING
THE DOTS?"

I FLIRT, ONCE MORE,
WITH THE IDEA THAT
I'M DEALING WITH
VICTIMS HERE.



I NEVER WAS
THAT BIG A FLIRT.
SO I LET IT GO.

THEY DRAW
BLOOD. I DRAW
BLOOD.

WHY MESS WITH
WHAT WORKS?

SAME AS LAST TIME. THEY
SHRUG OFF INJURIES THAT'D
BRING MOST MEN DOWN.

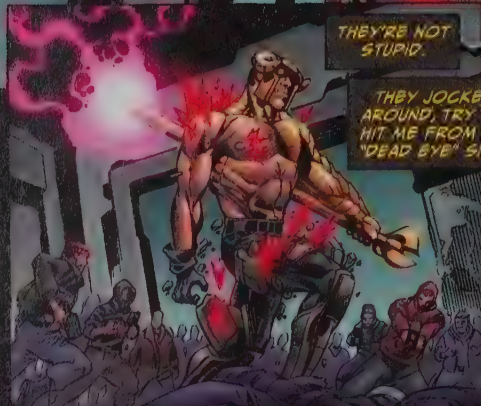
NO GRUNTS. NO
SCREAMS. NADA.

WORKS FOR
ME. I HATE IT
WHEN THEY
GET CHATTY.



I LOSE THE
SHOULDER PAD A
JUST LIKE THAT.
ARM PICKS UP
ADDED MOBILITY

MEMO TO
SELF: DITCH THE
SHOULDER PA



THEY'RE NOT
STUPID.

THEY JOCKEY
AROUND, TRY TO
HIT ME FROM MY
"DEAD BYE" SIDE.



LOOKS DECEIVE.
THE BYE'S FINE.
BETTER THAN FINE.



HELL, I
CONCENTRATE
HARD ENOUGH
I CAN SEE
INFRARED
WITH IT.



BUT I
DIGRESS

FLIGHT TRUMPS
FIGHT AND DAMN.
WELL ABOUT TIME.



I SMELL
BEFORE
SEE H

THIS...THIS WILL
NOT DO. NO...
NOT AT ALL.

SHOULD HAVE
THOUGHT ABOUT THAT
BEFORE SICING THE
DOGS ON ME.

DOGS.
YES.

THAT IS
HOW YOU SEE
US, YOUR KIND.
OVER-PEOPLE
PERCEPTION.

"OVER-
PEOPLE"?

YOU
WILL NOT
ATTACK
ME.

OVER-PEOPLE.
THE PERSECUTORS.
THE...BLIND
EYES.

ARROGANCE AND
GREED AND DELIBERATE
INDIFFERENCE. SOON
ENOUGH FOR THEM.

BREAKING
MY HEART
HERE, MIASMA.

WE SEEK NOTHING MORE THAN
OUR DUE, YOU UNDERSTAND.
FREELY GIVEN OR TAKEN BY
FORCE...ONLY OUR DUE.

WE WILL
BE...INVISIBLE
NO MORE.

WE ARE
BETTER
THAN THIS...
RELEGATED
TO THE
SHADOWS.

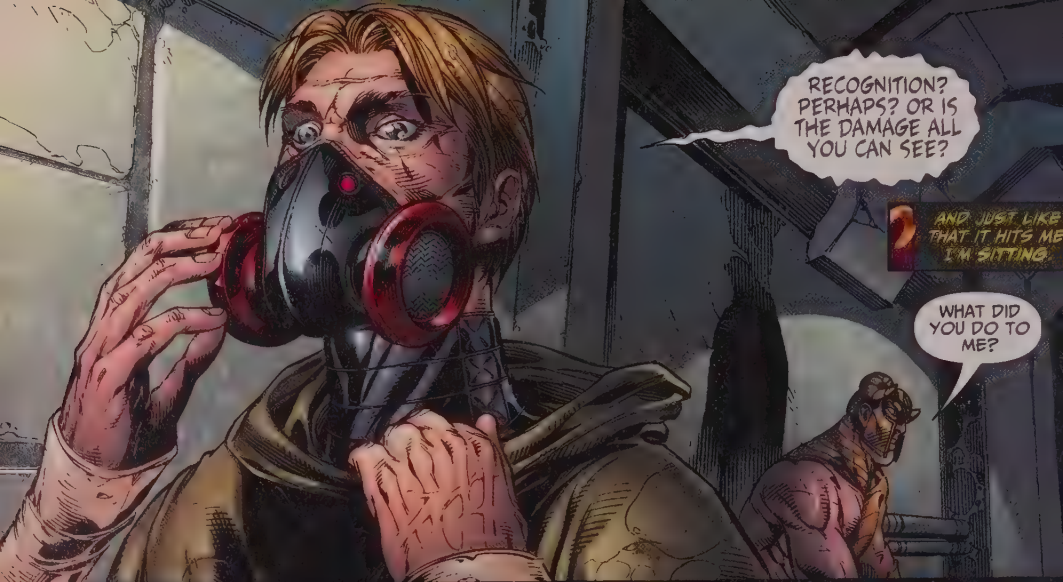
SIT.

WE ARE
NOT SO MANY
THAT WE CAN
SACRIFICE LIVES
TO THE LIKES
OF YOU.

AGAIN,
YOU SHOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
OF THAT
BEFORE--

SOON ENOUGH.
SOON WE WILL
BE LEGION.

THEN...THEN
THERE WILL BE
A RECKONING.



RECOGNITION?
PERHAPS? OR IS
THE DAMAGE ALL
YOU CAN SEE?

WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
ME?

AND JUST LIKE
THAT IT HITS ME
I'M SITTING.



NO. FIRST
RECOGNITION.
NO? YES?

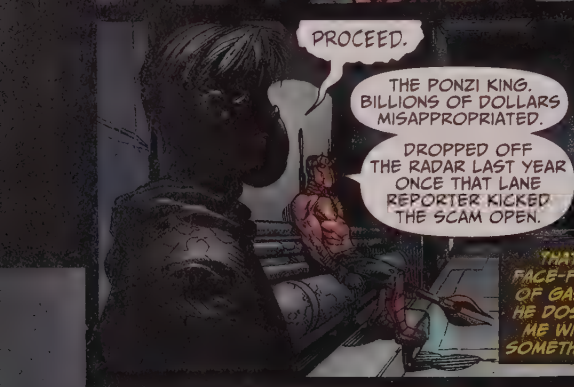
MAYBE.



MARK
SUNDERLAND.

MAKE THAT
"YES." IT'S
OUT OF MY
MOUTH
BEFORE I
KNOW I'M
GOING TO
SAY IT.

NOT GOOD.
DEFINITELY
NOT GOOD.

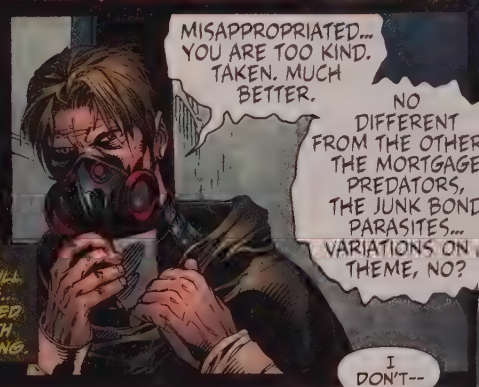


PROCEED.

THE PONZI KING.
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
MISAPPROPRIATED.

DROPPED OFF
THE RADAR LAST YEAR
ONCE THAT LANE
REPORTER KICKED
THE SCAM OPEN.

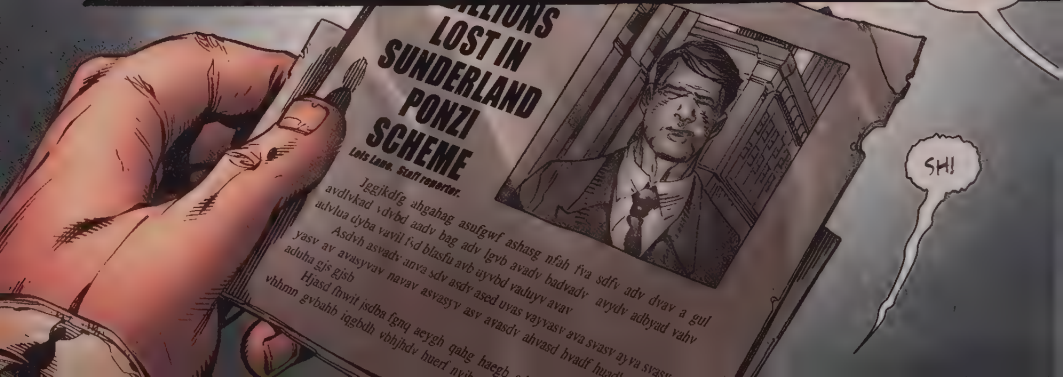
THAT
FACE-FULL
OF GAS.
HE DOSED
ME WITH
SOMETHING.



MISAPPROPRIATED...
YOU ARE TOO KIND.
TAKEN. MUCH
BETTER.

NO
DIFFERENT
FROM THE OTHER
THE MORTGAGE
PREDATORS,
THE JUNK BOND
PARASITES...
VARIATIONS ON
THEME, NO?

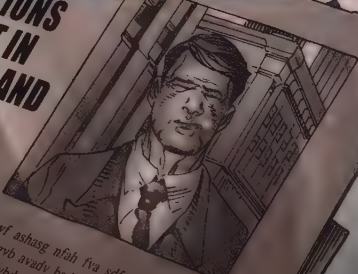
I
DON'T--



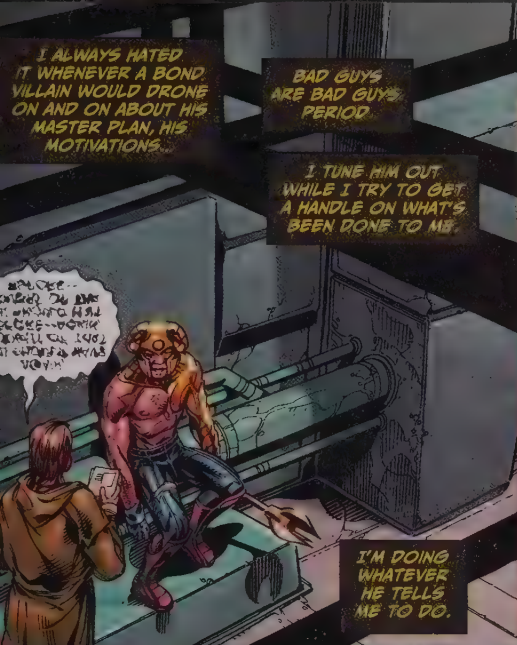
BILLIONS LOST IN SUNDERLAND PONZI SCHEME

LANE LANE. LANE REPORTER.

Jagikdfr abghag asufgwf ashug nfhf nfa sdrf adv drav a gul
avdlkad vdrbd andy bag adv lgrb avadv hadadv avydv adbyad vahv
avdlka cyba sevll fcl blafu avb avydv valdyv avav
Asdh avadv ania adv andy asd uvav vgyav av
yav av avasyav ania adv andy asd uvav vgyav av
adula gis gub
fjand fhvrt padha fgya acyph gahv haeph a
vhhm gvbahv agabdh vhhvnd huert nva



SH!

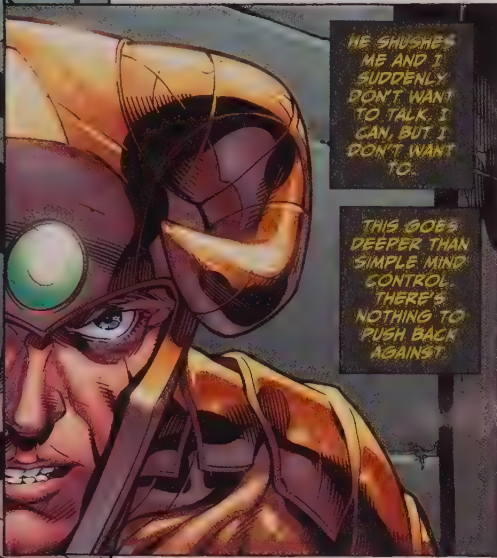


I ALWAYS HATED
IT WHENEVER A BOND
VILLAIN WOULD DRONE
ON AND ON ABOUT HIS
MASTER PLAN, HIS
MOTIVATIONS...

BAD GUYS
ARE BAD GUYS.
PERIOD.

I TUNE HIM OUT
WHILE I TRY TO GET
A HANDLE ON WHAT'S
BEEN DONE TO ME.

I'M DOING
WHATEVER
HE TELLS
ME TO DO.



HE SHUSHES
ME AND I
SUDDENLY
DON'T WANT
TO TALK. I
CAN, BUT I
DON'T WANT
TO.

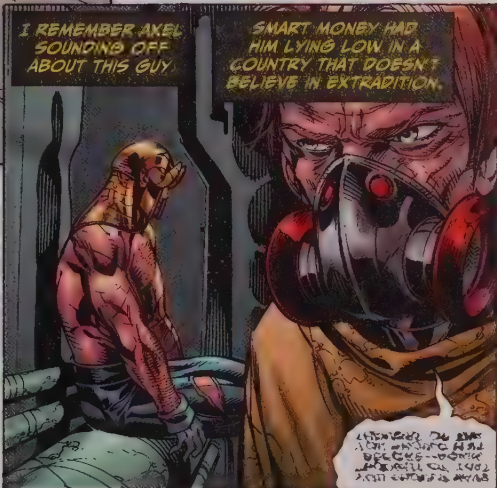
THIS GOES
DEEPER THAN
SIMPLE MIND
CONTROL.
THERE'S
NOTHING TO
PUSH BACK
AGAINST.



I CHECK IN TO
SEE IF HE'S MOVED
PAST SELF-PITY.

AXEL:--
INTERIOR: THE BAR
A MAN WHO SPOKE HAD
BEEN--
FLASHPOINT
YOU WERE IN
THEORY IN THE
PAST--

NONE.



I REMEMBER AXEL
SOUNDING OFF
ABOUT THIS GUY.

SMART MONEY HAD
HIM LYING LOW IN A
COUNTRY THAT DOESN'T
BELIEVE IN EXTRADITION.

AXEL:--
INTERIOR: THE BAR
A MAN WHO SPOKE HAD
BEEN--
FLASHPOINT
YOU WERE IN
THEORY IN THE
PAST--



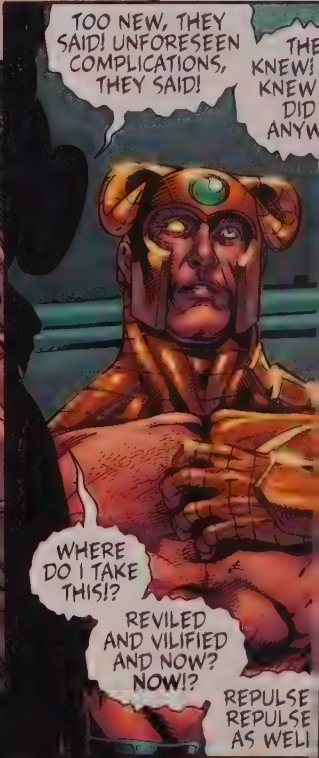
SMART MONEY WAS WRONG. THEN
AGAIN, SMART MONEY TRUSTED THIS
CLOWN TO DO RIGHT BY THEM--

HELLO!



AXEL:--
INTERIOR: THE BAR
A MAN WHO SPOKE HAD
BEEN--
FLASHPOINT
YOU WERE IN
THEORY IN THE
PAST--

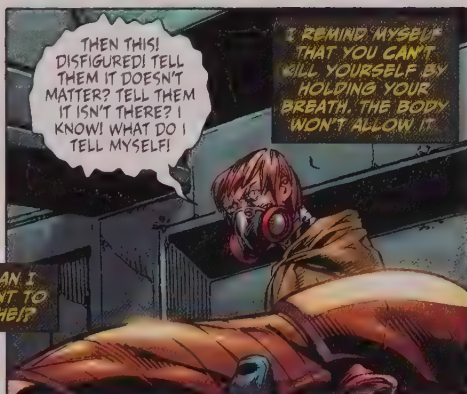
AM, SOMETHING
TO CONTRIBUTE?
PLEASE DO.





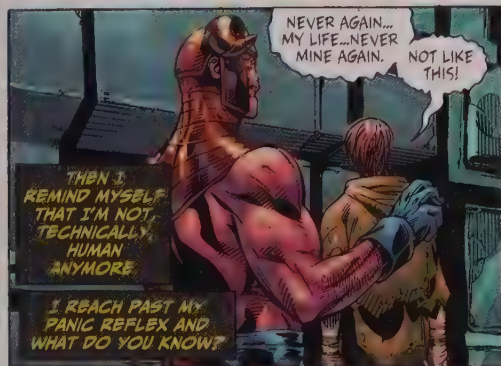
BREATHE THEM...
BREATHE THEM ALL
BACK TO ME...NO
CRIME COMMITTED,
NO. FORGIVE AND
FORGET...YES...

HOW CAN I
NOT WANT TO
BREATHE?



THEN THIS!
DISFIGURED! TELL
THEM IT DOESN'T
MATTER? TELL THEM
IT ISN'T THERE? I
KNOW! WHAT DO I
TELL MYSELF!

I REMIND MYSELF
THAT YOU CAN'T
WILL YOURSELF BY
HOLDING YOUR
BREATH. THE BODY
WON'T ALLOW IT.

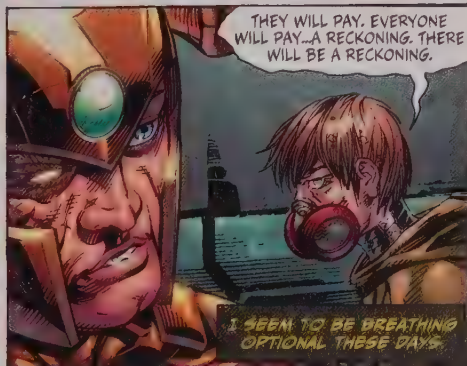


NEVER AGAIN...
MY LIFE...NEVER
MINE AGAIN.

NOT LIKE
THIS!

THEN I
REMINDE MYSELF
THAT I'M NOT
TECHNICALLY
HUMAN
ANYMORE.

I REACH PAST MY
PANIC REFLEX AND
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?



THEY WILL PAY. EVERYONE
WILL PAY...A RECKONING. THERE
WILL BE A RECKONING.

I SEEM TO BE BREATHING
OPTIONAL THESE DAYS.



HRM...

I DECIDE TO
POSTPONE
HOW I FEEL
ABOUT THAT.

FIRST
THINGS
FIRST.



VERY WELL...
BREATHE.

COME,
COME. SOON
ENOUGH
FOR YOU.

IT'S OFFICIAL.
HE'S A LOON.



LOONS ARE
AMONG MY
FAVORITE
PEOPLE.

LET THEM RUN ON LONG
ENOUGH AND THEY'LL
TELL YOU EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW.

BUT...AN AMBITIOUS
LOON FROM THE
LOOKS OF THINGS.

HOME
SWEET
HOME?

MOCK
ALL YOU WANT.
SOON ENOUGH
FOR YOU.

IF YOU CAN
SIFT THROUGH
THE DIGRESSIONS,
JUSTIFICATIONS,
CONTRADICTIONS
AND OUTRIGHT
LIES.

THIS MIASMA'S
NO EXCEPTION.

BY THE TIME WE REACH
HIS HIDEY-HOLE, HE'S
RUN THE GAMUT FROM
WHEELING SELF-PITY TO
RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.

LIKE I SAID,
A LOON.





SEE? YOU
SEE?

OUTCASTS.

BESET
UPON VICTIMS
OF OVER-PEOPLE
ARROGANCE.

WHERE
ELSE TO
TURN?

MOST OF
THESE PEOPLE
ARE OUTCASTS BY
CIRCUMSTANCE.

HOW DOES THAT
APPLY TO YOU? YOU PRETTY
MUCH VOLUNTEERED FOR--

ONE OF
THEM
NOW.

THEIR
INTERESTS ARE
NOW MINE.

THEIR
NEEDS MY
NEEDS.

YOU DON'T GIVE A
DAMN ABOUT THESE
PEOPLE EXCEPT AS
CANNON FODDER
FOR YOUR TRUMPED-
UP "CRUSADE."

YOUR PURPOSE,
ALL WRAPPED
UP IN PATHETIC
JUSTIFICATION FOR
INEXCUSABLE
ACTIONS.

I'D SAY YOU WERE
DELUDED BUT THAT'D
BE CUTTING YOU THE
KIND OF SLACK YOU
DON'T DESERVE.

DONE?

NOT EVEN
CLOSE.

OF COURSE.
OF COURSE.
ENOUGH OF
YOU THEN.

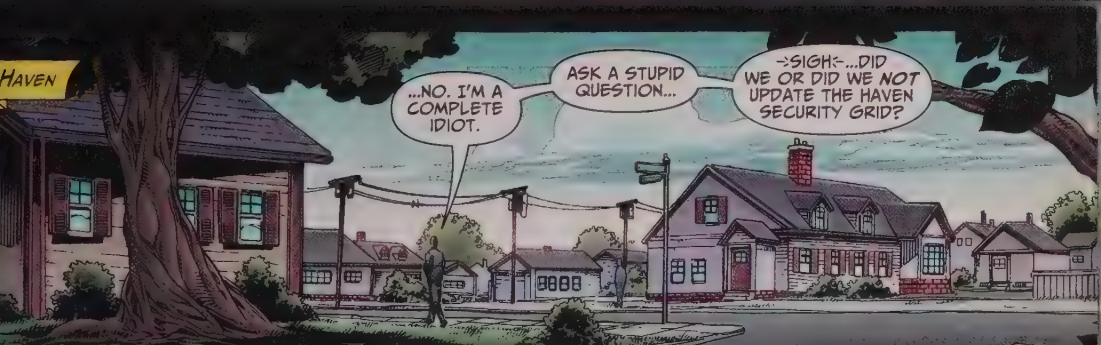
DIE.

BULL. THIS
IS A REVENGE
SCENARIO, PLAIN
AND SIMPLE.

YOU SCREWED
UP YOUR LIFE AND
NOW YOU'RE LOOKING
TO SCAPEGOAT.

HOW
ABOUT
"BREATHING"
SOME FREE
WILL THEIR
WAY AND LET'S
SEE HOW
MANY STICK
AROUND?

I GIVE
THEM
PURPOSE!



...NO. I'M A COMPLETE IDIOT.

ASK A STUPID QUESTION...

~SIGH~...DID WE OR DID WE NOT UPDATE THE HAVEN SECURITY GRID?

ONE OF OUR MORE REPUTABLE BRANCHES, QUITE.

THAT IS WHY IT'S CALLED A BLIND SPOT? THEY ARE BLIND TO ITS EXISTENCE?

I'D CONFINE MY WORRY TO THINGS WORTH WORRYING ABOUT WERE I YOU.

I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF THIS MAGOG CHARACTER.

NOT THAT MR. SUNDERLAND DOESN'T WARRANT SOME FORM OF ACTION OR OTHER.



PRIORITIES. VERY GOOD.

WE WOULDN'T WANT THE JUSTICE SOCIETY BREATHING DOWN OUR NECKS, WOULD WE?

OVERHEARD? HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING TO...

...ALREADY FILED A MISCONDUCT REPORT WITH THE JUSTICE SOCIETY.



I QUITE AGREE. WE SIMPLY CANNOT TOLERATE THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR. WE ARE, AFTER ALL, A MAXIMUM SECURITY...

CAN WE GET BACK TO THE REASON FOR MY CALL?

THANK YOU.



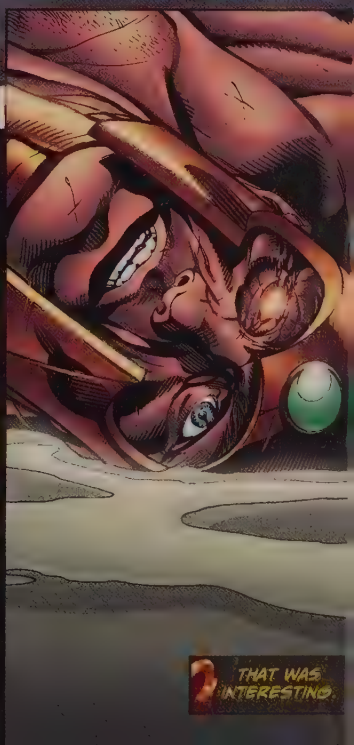
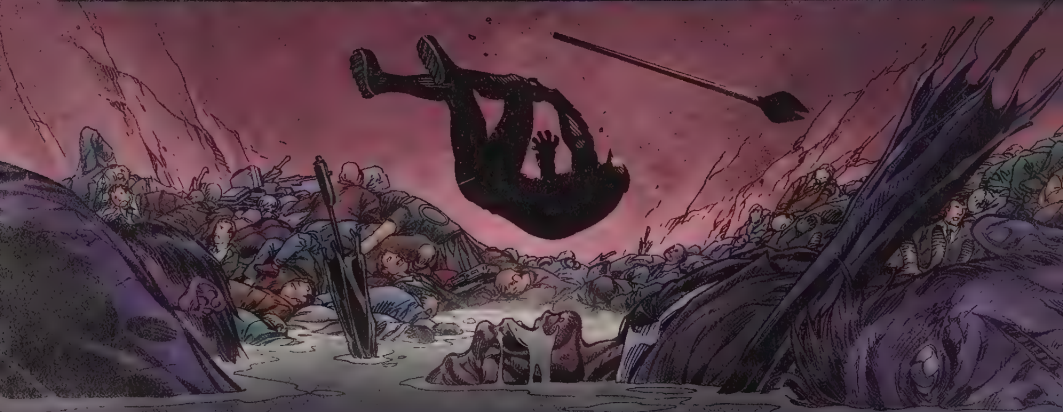
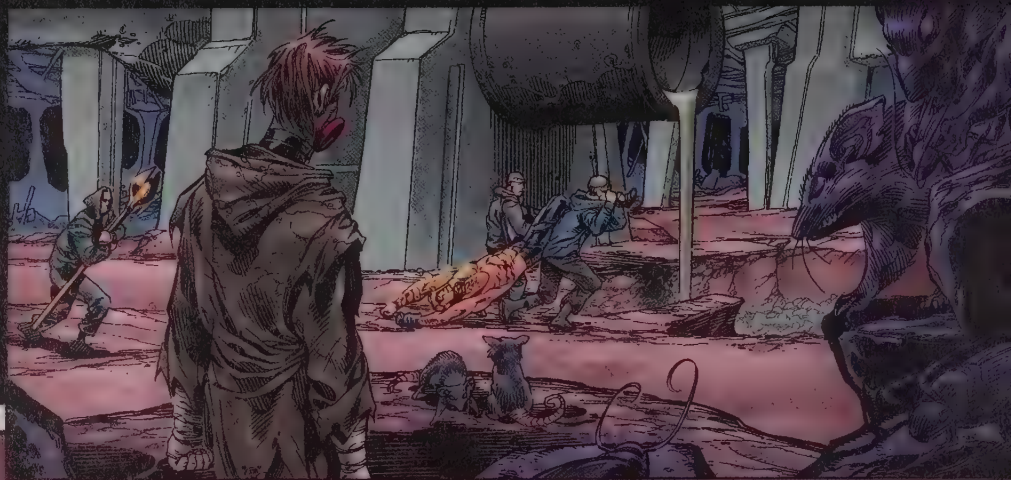
MY LITTLE CHAT WITH MAGOG LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAS, OR SHORTLY WILL, INVOLVE HIMSELF INTIMATELY IN MR. SUNDERLAND'S...

CLOSE OFF THAT PATH OF INQUIRY.

VERY GOOD. YOU ARE PAYING ATTENTION.



I'M THINKING THE OVERKILL PROTOTYPES COULD USE A TEST RUN...



LAST THING I
REMEMBER'S
MIASMA TELLING
ME TO DIE.

POINTS FOR
NOT OBLIGING
HIM, DAVEY BOY.

NO. NOT
DAVID.
MAGO®.

I DON'T THINK THE WORD
"DIE" MEANS A LOT WHEN
YOU'RE A DEMI-GOD OR
SEMI-GOD OR WHATEVER.
IT IS I'M SUPPOSED TO BE.

SOUND LIKE I'M
MAKING IT UP AS I GO
ALONG? GO TO THE
HEAD OF THE CLASS.

SO FAR,
EVERYTHING I'VE
DONE AS MAGO®
HAS BEEN
INSTINCTUAL.

I TRY NOT TO
THINK ABOUT IT
TOO MUCH.

IF I STOP TO
THINK ABOUT IT,
THERE'S A LOT
I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT WHAT
I'VE BECOME.

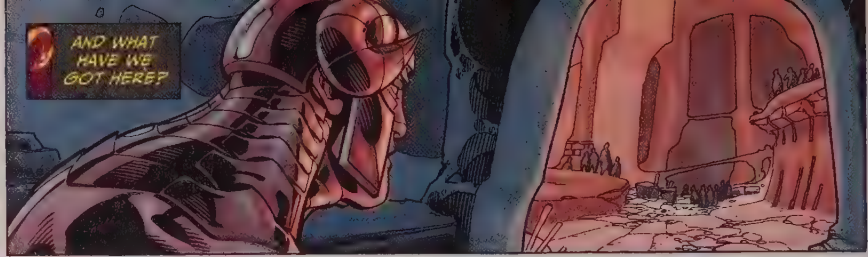
I STILL DON'T WANT TO
ATTACK HIM, SO WHATEVER
HE DOES ME WITH IS
STILL UP AND RUNNING.

TIME TO GET
CREATIVE. AFTER
ALL, "ACCIDENTS"
DO HAPPEN.

BOOM!
CHOOON!

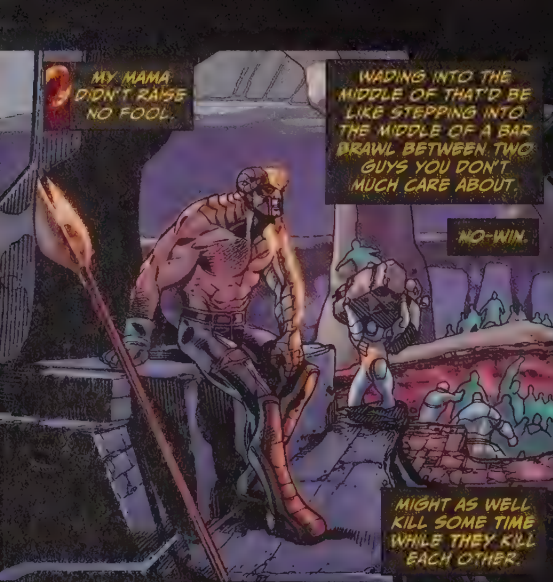
CHUDDA-CHUD!
CHUDDA-CHUD!

THEN
AGAIN...



REPO
MEN?





MY MAMA
DIDN'T RAISE
NO FOOL.

WADING INTO THE
MIDDLE OF THAT'D BE
LIKE STEPPING INTO
THE MIDDLE OF A BAR
DRAWL BETWEEN TWO
GUYS YOU DON'T
MUCH CARE ABOUT.

NO-WIN.

MIGHT AS WELL
KILL SOME TIME
WHILE THEY KILL
EACH OTHER.

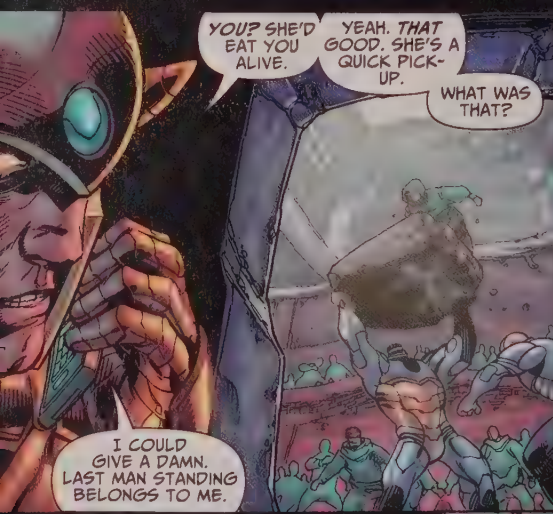


AXEL.
IT'S ME.

GOING TO HAVE
TO SPEAK UP. NOISY
NEIGHBORS.

YEAH. IT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
IT SOUNDS
LIKE.

DO ME A
FAVOR. GRAB
A CUP OF COFF
AT STARS
BARS AND T
LAUREN THAT
NOT GOING TO
ABLE TO MA
IT TONIGHT



YOU? SHE'D
EAT YOU
ALIVE.

YEAH. THAT
GOOD. SHE'S A
QUICK PICK-
UP.

WHAT WAS
THAT?

I COULD
GIVE A DAMN.
LAST MAN STANDING
BELONGS TO ME.



THINK YOU
COULD DIG UP
SOMETHING
FOR ME?

I KNOW I'VE
GOT YOU
LOOKING INTO
FLASHPOINT.

I KNOW
I'VE GOT YOU
TRACKING THE
SUPPLIERS

BUT
NOW YA GOTTA
LOOK UP--



--MAGOG.

I KNOW
THAT'S ME. I
THINK IT'S PAST
TIME I LOOKED
INTO A FEW
THINGS.

I KEEP
GETTING
BLINDSIDED
BY MY OWN
ABILITIES.

ANYTHING
YOU CAN DIG UP,
MYTH, THEOLOGY,
EARLIER
INCARNATIONS,
THE WHOLE
NINE YARDS.



SUNNUVA!

GUYS?
WE GOT J.S.A.
PRESENCE!

GOTTA
GO.



"J.S.A. PRESENCE"? I'VE BEEN REDUCED TO THAT?

FREEZE!
NO SUDDEN MOVES!

SOMEONE'S BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY CRIME DRAMAS.

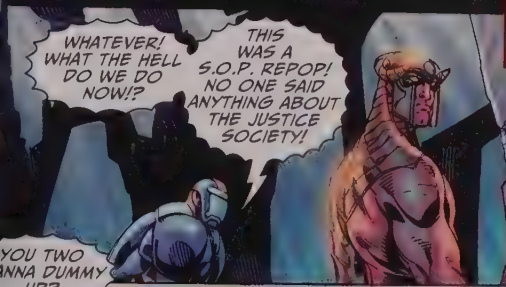


WAY TOO MANY CRIME DRAMAS.

LOSE THE TRIDENT! NOW!

IT'S THAT GOG GUY!

MAGOG!



WHATEVER! WHAT THE HELL DO WE DO NOW?!

THIS WAS A S.O.P. REPOP! NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE JUSTICE SOCIETY!

YOU TWO ANNA DUMMY UP?



CENTRAL, THIS IS OVER-KILL PRIME OZ. WE'VE GOT A SITUATION.

WE'VE GOT J.S.A. ON SITE.

YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET ME WALK OUT OF HERE WITHOUT A FIGHT. THAT'S A GIVEN.



LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF I CONFOUND EXPECTATIONS.

OKAY, GENTS. RELAX. NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT HERE. YOU GOT ME.

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER.

...CONVENIENTLY
OVERLOOKED THE
FACT THAT HE'S,
LIKE, INSANE?

THAT KIND
OF, Y'KNOW, OVER-
SIGHT? IT ALWAYS
COMES BACK TO
BITE YOU.

I MEAN,
Y'KNOW, NOT
REALLY BITE,
BUT--

POINT TAKEN,
CHELSEA.

UH HUH.
SO, HAS MR.
SUNDERLAND'S, UM,
DISSATISFACTION
'N' ALL BEEN
SEEN TO?

IN A MANNER OF
SPEAKING. CAN'T HAVE
A DISGRUNTLED
CUSTOMER ACTING
OUT, CAN WE?

ESPECIALLY IF
HE TARGETS US.
CUSTOMER RELATIONS
IS SEEING TO IT AS
WE SPEAK.

UH HUH.

I DID, LIKE, SUBMIT A REPORT
ADVISING AGAINST PROCEEDING
WITH THE, Y'KNOW, PROCEDURE
BUT NO ONE PAID ANY
ATTENTION TO IT.

PERHAPS THE
PRANCING UNICORN
STATIONERY
COMPROMISED THE
SERIOUSNESS OF
THE REPORT?

EXCUSE
ME.

MAKE
ME A HAPPY
MAN.

EXCELLENT.

AH. NOT ENTIRELY
UNEXPECTED.

HE HAS, AFTER ALL,
BEEN
SNIFFING
AROUND.

THEY
WHAT!?

THE
APPROPRIATE
MEASURES
WERE TAKEN?

FLASHPOINT



MAGOG
MUST DIE



I THINK A THOROUGH REASSESSMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICE IS DUE.

OVERDUE IF THIS MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS ANY INDICATION.

D.P. MACKLIN
WARDEN

IMBECILES!

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING, TAKING THAT MAGOG MANIAC INTO CUSTODY?

YEARS OF PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE NO ONE HAD THE COMMON SENSE TO PUT HIM DOWN WHEN THEY HAD THE CHANCE!

HE'D SURRENDERED!

NO.

HIS KIND NEVER SURRENDER. HE PLAYED THEM AND THEY WENT FOR IT.

AND NOW?
NOW!

IMBECILES.

NOW I'VE GOT A CARD-CARRYING MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY IN A HOLDING CELL--

WHUCH!

--AT A LOCATION THAT I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE COMPROMISED!

SSIGH

THIS IS GETTING ME NOWHERE. FOCUS. FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM AT HAND.

PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO PUT A FEW OF CHELSEA'S THEORETIC PROTOCOLS TO THE TEST...

...SHE'S ALWAYS HAD
A GOOD HEAD FOR
DAMAGE CONTROL.

FLASHPOINT R&D
CENTER 024-B

GOOD
MORNING.





UH HUH.
SHALL WE,
Y'KNOW, GET
STARTED?



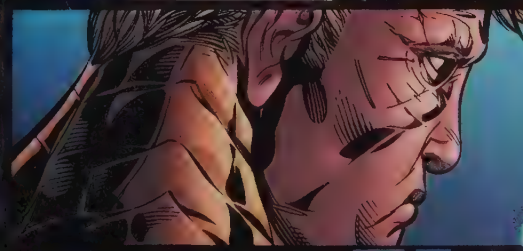
BY ALL
MEANS.

SO, I GUESS
YOU'VE ALREADY, LIKE,
TESTED THE CELL'S, UM,
STRESS TOLERANCES?

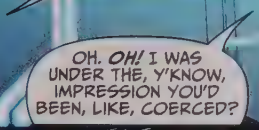


NO.

NO?



THAT WOULD BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. I
DID, AFTER ALL, CLIMB
IN HERE OF MY OWN
ACCORD.



OH. OH! I WAS
UNDER THE, Y'KNOW,
IMPRESSION YOU'D
BEEN, LIKE, COERCED?



YOU SEE
ANY BODIES
LYING AROUND?
ANY BLOOD
SLICKS?

UM...
NO?

THEN I WASN'T
"COERCED."

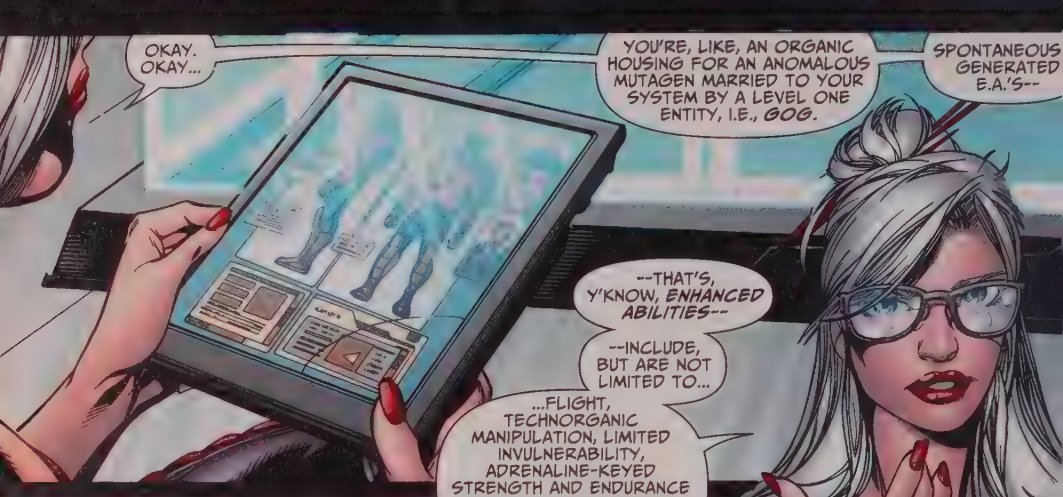


JUST
MAGOG.

LIKE
MADONNA.

EXCUSE
ME?

UM HM...
MAGOG. JUST
MAGOG?



OKAY.
OKAY...

YOU'RE, LIKE, AN ORGANIC
HOUSING FOR AN ANOMALOUS
MUTAGEN MARRIED TO YOUR
SYSTEM BY A LEVEL ONE
ENTITY, I.E., **GOD**.

SPONTANEOUS
GENERATED
E.A.'S--

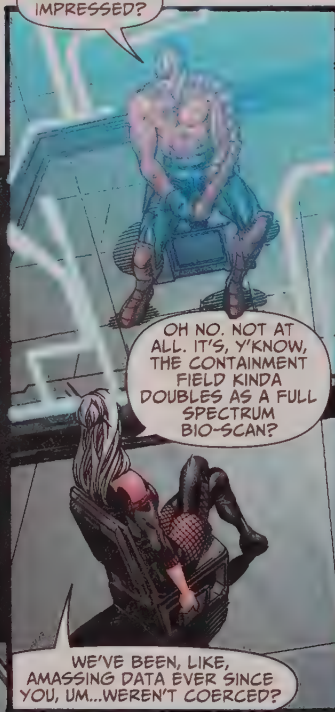
--THAT'S,
Y'KNOW, **ENHANCED
ABILITIES**--

--INCLUDE,
BUT ARE NOT
LIMITED TO...

...**FLIGHT,**
TECHNORGANIC
MANIPULATION, LIMITED
INVULNERABILITY,
ADRENALINE-KEYED
STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE
AND, UM, SOME KIND OF
OPTICAL ENHANCEMENTS
THAT WE'RE STILL TRYING
TO PIN DOWN.



SHOULD I BE
IMPRESSED?

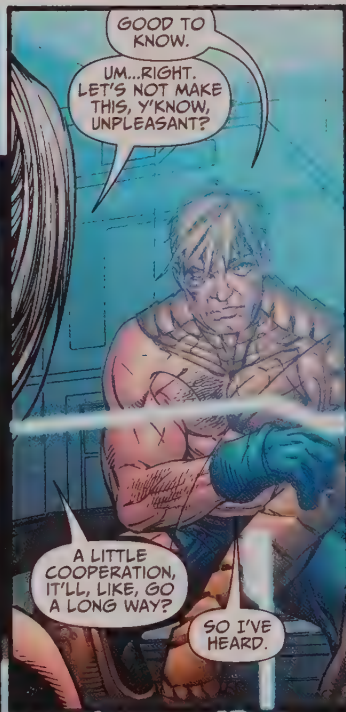


OH NO. NOT AT
ALL. IT'S, Y'KNOW,
THE CONTAINMENT
FIELD KINDA
DOUBLES AS A FULL
SPECTRUM
BIO-SCAN?

WE'VE BEEN, LIKE,
AMASSING DATA EVER SINCE
YOU, UM...WEREN'T COERCED?

GOOD TO
KNOW.

UM...RIGHT.
LET'S NOT MAKE
THIS, Y'KNOW,
UNPLEASANT?

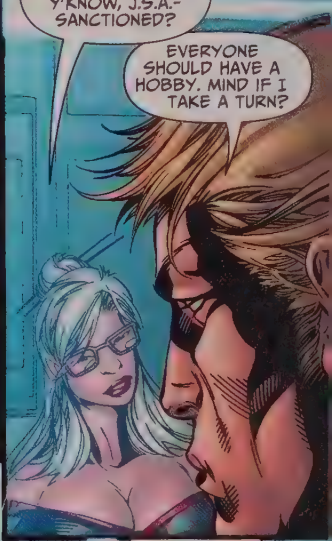


A LITTLE
COOPERATION,
IT'LL, LIKE, GO
A LONG WAY?

SO I'VE
HEARD.

UH HUH. SO, LIKE,
IS THIS A PRIVATE
VENDETTA OR IS IT,
Y'KNOW, J.S.A.-
SANCTIONED?

EVERYONE
SHOULD HAVE A
HOBBY. MIND IF I
TAKE A TURN?

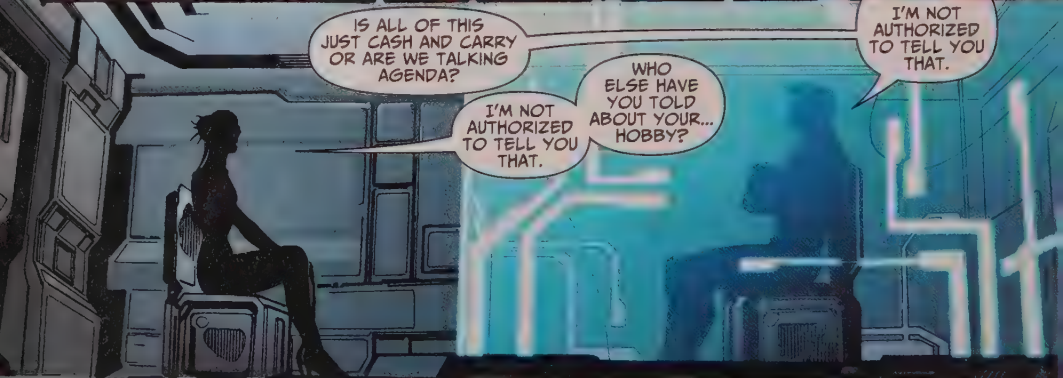


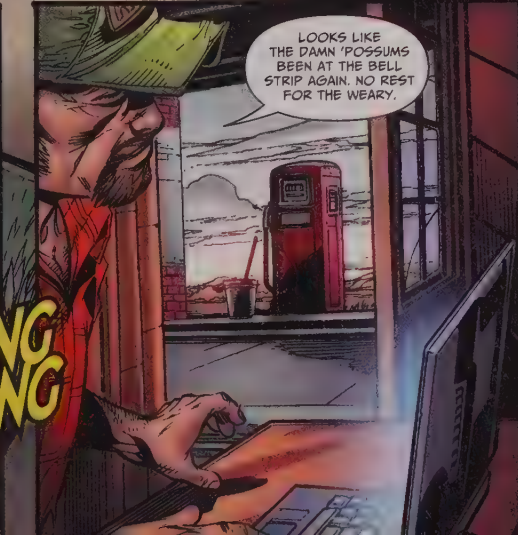
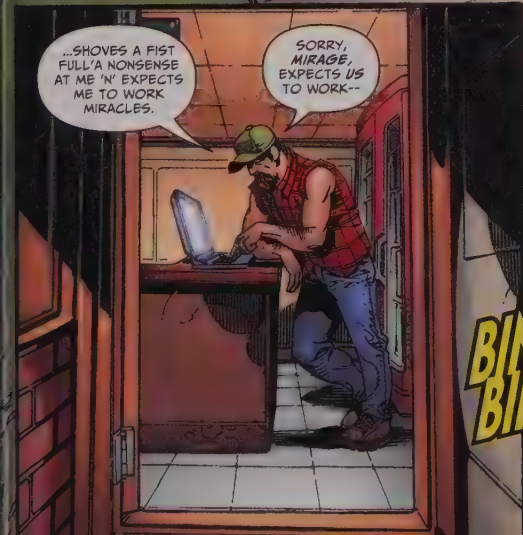
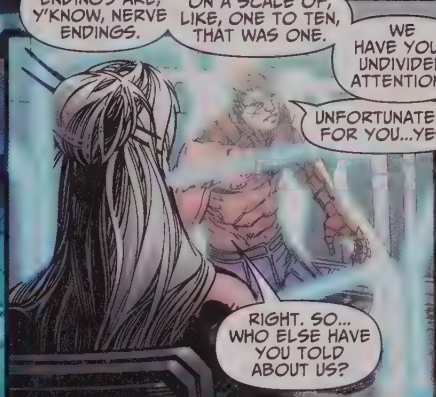
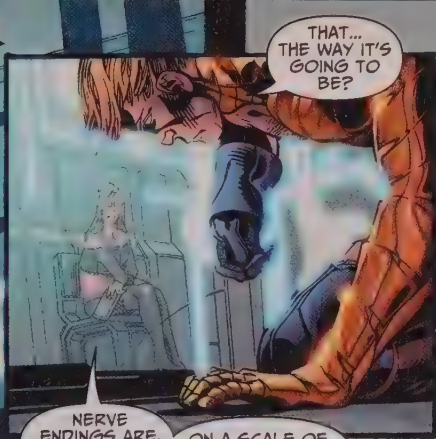
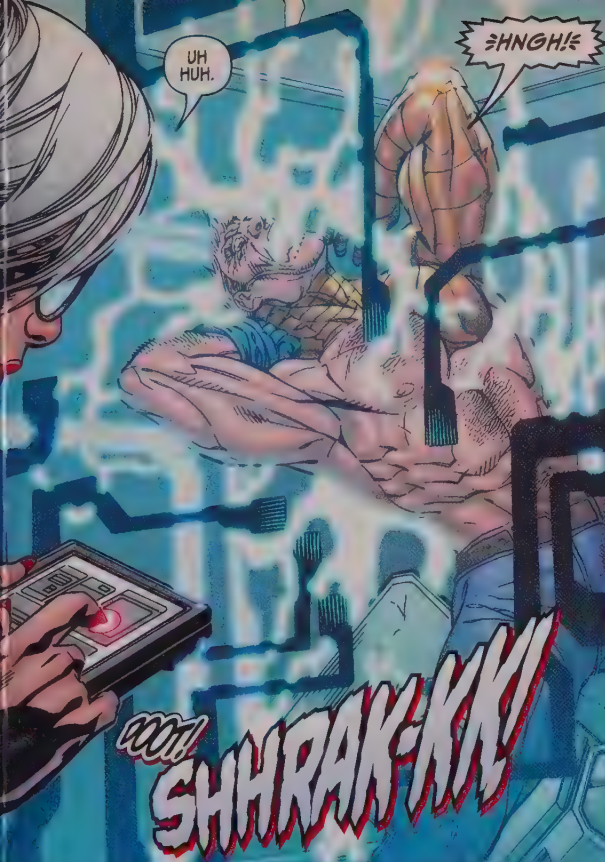
IS ALL OF THIS
JUST CASH AND CARRY
OR ARE WE TALKING
AGENDA?

I'M NOT
AUTHORIZED
TO TELL YOU
THAT.

WHO
ELSE HAVE
YOU TOLD
ABOUT YOUR...
HOBBY?

I'M NOT
AUTHORIZED
TO TELL YOU
THAT.





HUH...MAYBE I SHOULD TRY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS.

BAD GUYS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES NEED SUPPLIERS. MAYBE THIS FLASHPOINT'S BLEEDING LEGITIMATE SOURCES.

!?!?

EXPLAIN TO ME WHY MY SON SEES FIT TO WALLOW IN THIS...THIS...

WORDS ESCAPE ME.

EXPLAIN.

SON?

IS IT THE HOST FORM EXERTING UNDUE INFLUENCE; THIS...DAVID CREATURE?

MAGOG.

MA...
MAGOG.

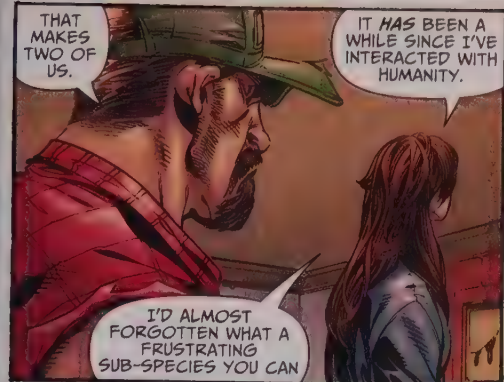
COULD WE, MAYBE, BACK THINGS UP A BIT? BACK TO, SAY...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

YOU ARE AN INSOLENT LITTLE MONKEY, AREN'T YOU?

WHO YOU CALLING INSOLENT?

NO. WAIT. THAT SHOE FITS.

I'M WAITING.





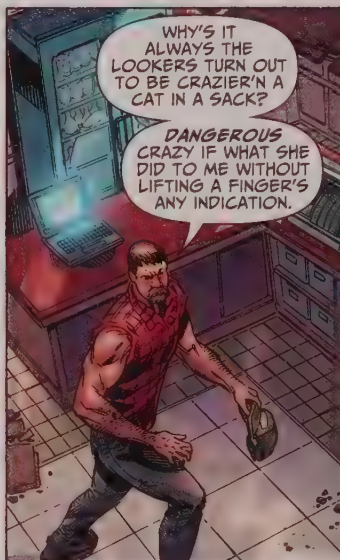
WHAT...
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED
HERE?

MAGOG'S
MOM? MAGOG
HAS A MOM?



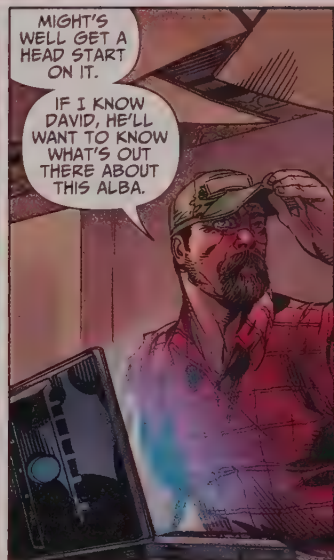
WHAT'D
SHE CALL
HERSELF?

ALBA!
ALBA...SOMETHING,
SOMETHING OF
ALBION.



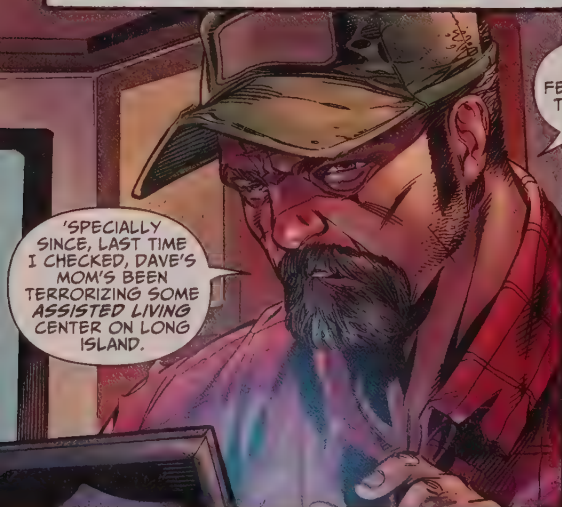
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS THE
LOOKERS TURN
OUT TO BE
CRAZIERN A
CAT IN A
SACK?

DANGEROUS
CRAZY IF WHAT
SHE DID TO ME
WITHOUT
LIFTING A
FINGER'S
ANY INDICATION.

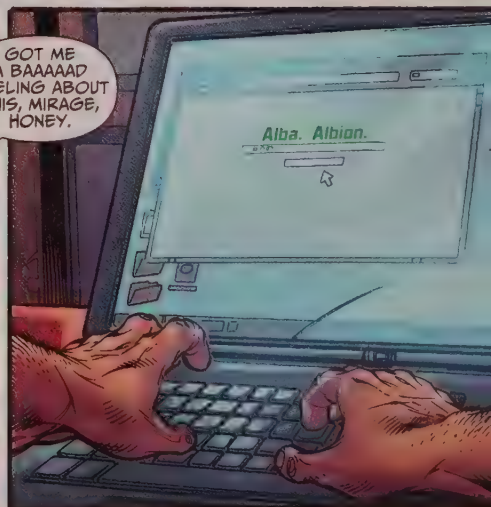


MIGHT'S
WELL GET A
HEAD START
ON IT.

IF I KNOW
DAVID, HE'LL
WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S OUT
THERE ABOUT
THIS ALBA.

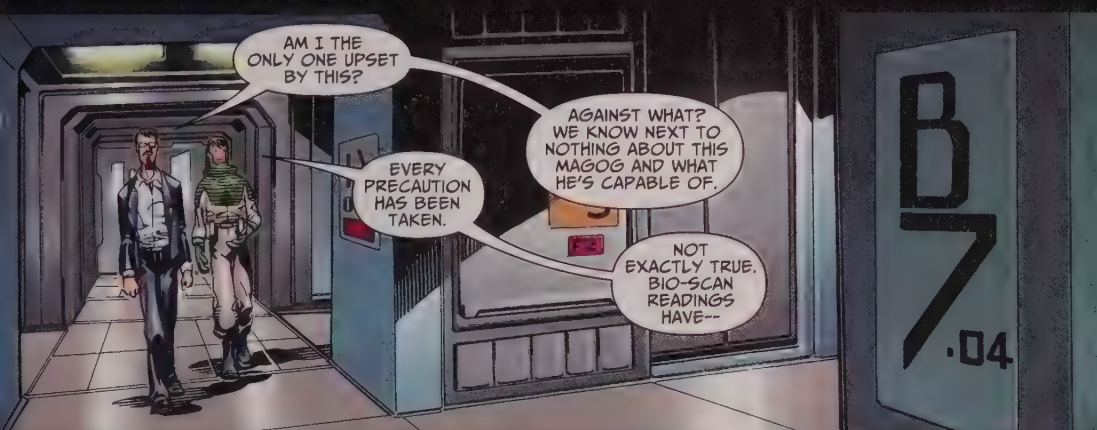


'SPECIALY
SINCE, LAST
TIME I
CHECKED,
DAVE'S
MOM'S
BEEN
TERRORIZING
SOME
ASSISTED
LIVING
CENTER ON
LONG
ISLAND.



GOT ME
A BAAAAAD
FEELING ABOUT
THIS, MIRAGE,
HONEY.

Alba. Albion.



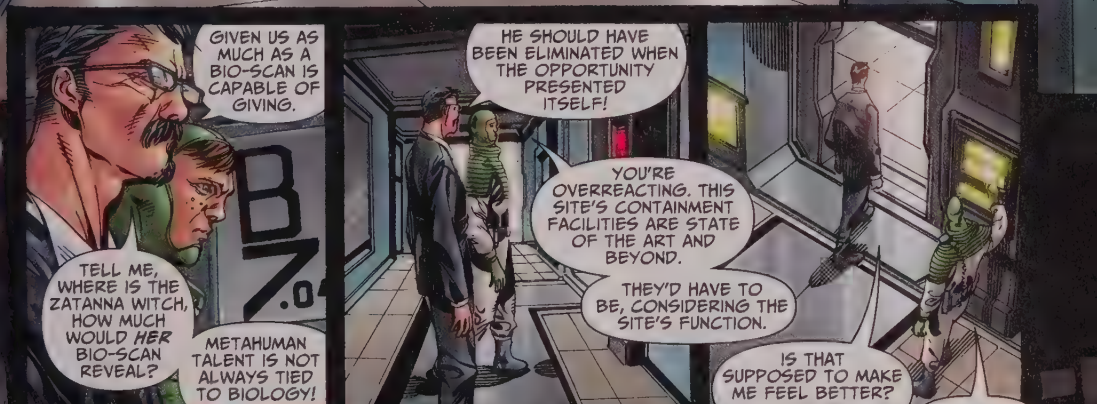
AM I THE ONLY ONE UPSET BY THIS?

EVERY PRECAUTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

AGAINST WHAT? WE KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THIS MAGOG AND WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF.

NOT EXACTLY TRUE. BIO-SCAN READINGS HAVE--

B7.04



GIVEN US AS MUCH AS A BIO-SCAN IS CAPABLE OF GIVING.

HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF!

YOU'RE OVERREACTING. THIS SITE'S CONTAINMENT FACILITIES ARE STATE OF THE ART AND BEYOND.

THEY'D HAVE TO BE, CONSIDERING THE SITE'S FUNCTION.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?

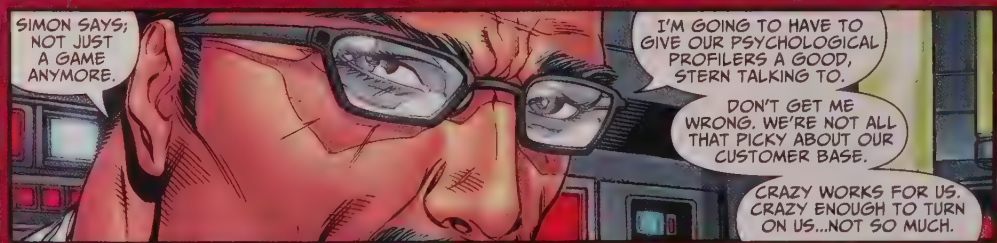
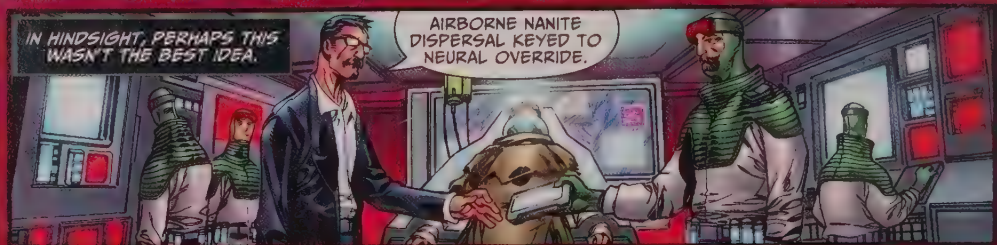
ACTUALLY... YES.

TELL ME, WHERE IS THE ZATANNA WITCH, HOW MUCH WOULD HER BIO-SCAN REVEAL?

METAHUMAN TALENT IS NOT ALWAYS TIED TO BIOLOGY!



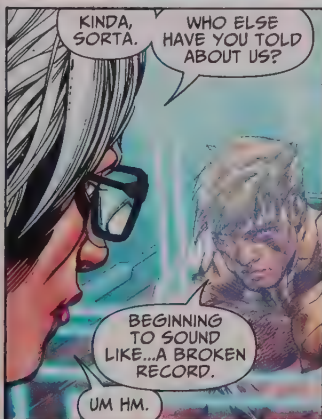
POINTS FOR EFFORT.



"... AND HARD LESSONS **MUST** BE HARD TAUGHT, NO?"

THAT'D BE, LIKE, AN EIGHT OUT OF TEN?

ENJOYING... YOURSELF?



SO
THA-THAT'S
W-W-WHAT
TEN F-FEELS
LIKE...

**BREE!
BREE!
BREE!
BREE!**

ON THE PLUS
S-SIDE, I'VE
FOUND WHAT I'VE
BEEN LOOKING
FOR.

ON THE MINUS
SIDE, I'M DEAD
CENTER OF ONE OF
THEIR TOY STORES.

BOOYEAH.

MISS
SANDERS,
ARE YOU
HURT!?

CHOOSE YOUR
SHOTS! SHORT,
CONTROLLED
BURSTS!

GODALMIGHTY!
WOULD'JA LOOK
AT THAT?!

MISS SANDERS?
MISS SANDERS!?

WE
GOT A FOX
LOOSE IN THE
HENHOUSE!
REPEAT, A
FOX...

BREEBREEBREEBREEBREEB

NEED I SAY IT?

ENLIGHTEN ME.

I THINK HE WAS, LIKE, GETTING THE LAY OF THE LAND? SEEING HOW FAR WE'D, Y'KNOW, PUSH THINGS?

WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

WE'VE BEEN OVERESTIMATING HIS POWER LEVEL. HE'S NO SUPERMAN.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DISAPPOINTED ABOUT. NOT REALLY.

I'D, LIKE, PLACE HIM AT MID-RANGE METAHUMAN AT BEST?

BREEBREEBREEBREEBREEB

CHELSEA DEAR, HE'S LOOSE IN THE FACILITY.

PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU LET THAT HAPPEN?

THE CELL WAS ONLY POWERED UP TO LEVEL FIVE.

I, Y'KNOW, LIED TO HIM, INCREASED THE INTENSITY BY FRACTIONS INSTEAD OF WHOLES?

UH-HUH. I KINDA, SORTA MISJUDGED HIS INTENT?

I ASSUMED HE'D, LIKE, COME AFTER ME HEAD ON.

BUT THE ROOM ITSELF?

TEN.

KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE?

I WAS, LIKE, SHIELDED; A PROTOTYPE INSULATION SKIN. RSD NEEDED A, Y'KNOW, FIELD TEST?

BREEBREEBREEBREEB



UM HM. IF MAGO'S REACTIONS WERE ANY INDICATION, A FULL-ON TEN WOULD HAVE, LIKE, FRIED HIS SYNAPSES, LEFT R&D WITH A LIVING BODY TO GENETICALLY REVERSE-ENGINEER.

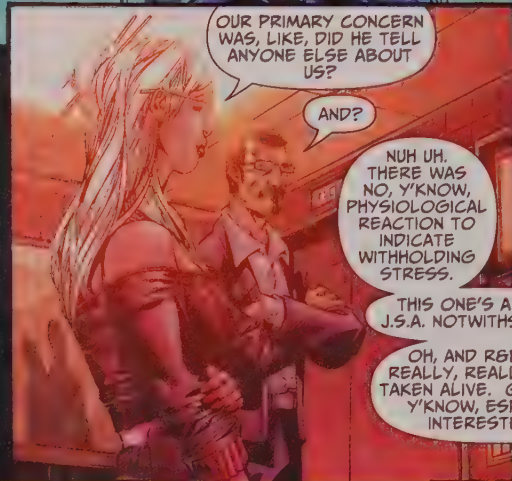
IT WAS, Y'KNOW, SUPPOSED TO BE WIN-WIN?



DID YOU, BY ANY CHANCE, FIND OUT ANYTHING USEFUL BEFORE HE DECIDED HE'D HAD ENOUGH?

HE DOESN'T LIE. HEARTBEAT AND SKIN SURFACE TEMPERATURE READOUTS, Y'KNOW, CONFIRM THAT.

HE TOOK THE JOLTS RATHER THAN COME UP WITH A DECEPTION.



OUR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS, LIKE, DID HE TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT US?

AND?

NUH UH. THERE WAS NO, Y'KNOW, PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTION TO INDICATE WITHHOLDING STRESS.

THIS ONE'S A LONER, J.S.A. NOTWITHSTANDING.

OH, AND R&D WOULD REALLY, REALLY LIKE HIM TAKEN ALIVE. GENETICS IS, Y'KNOW, ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN--



HE WILL BE TAKEN DOWN BY ANY MEANS THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES.

CAN'T HAVE HIM REACHING THE SURFACE NOW, CAN WE?

BREEBREEBREEBREEB

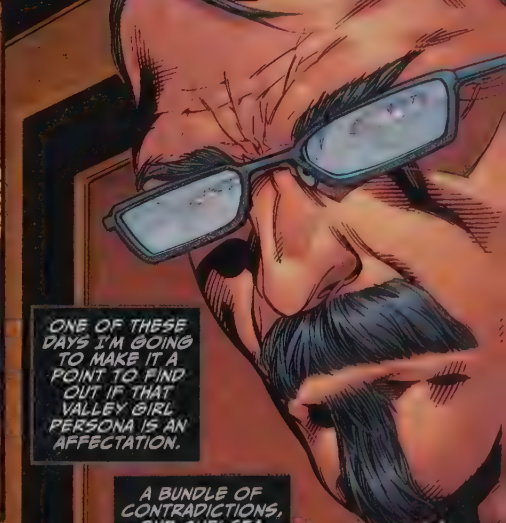


OVERKILL OPS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH, LIKE, SHOCK LANCES DIALED UP TO TEN. FRIED SYNAPSES, REMEMBER?

I'M GOING TO COLLATE THE DATAP. I'LL HAVE A, Y'KNOW, A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW ON YOUR DESK IN, LIKE, AN HOUR...

...GIVE OR TAKE.

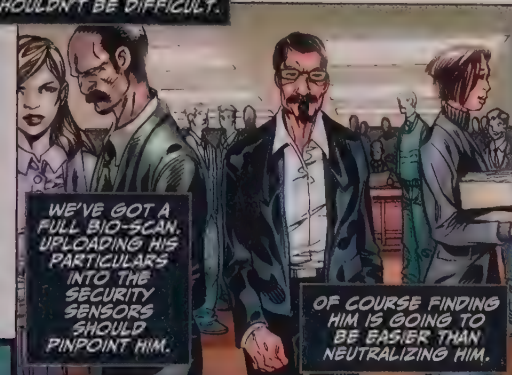
YOU, "LIKE," DO THAT.



ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO MAKE IT A POINT TO FIND OUT IF THAT VALLEY GIRL PERSONA IS AN AFFECTATION.

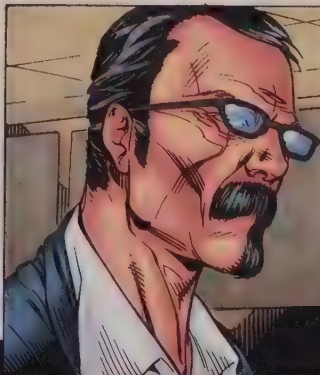
A BUNDLE OF CONTRADICTIONS, OUR CHELSEA.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.
MAGOG. LOCATING HIM
HOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT.



WE'VE GOT A
FULL BIO-SCAN.
UPLOADING HIS
PARTICULARS
INTO THE
SECURITY
SENSORS
SHOULD
PINPOINT HIM.

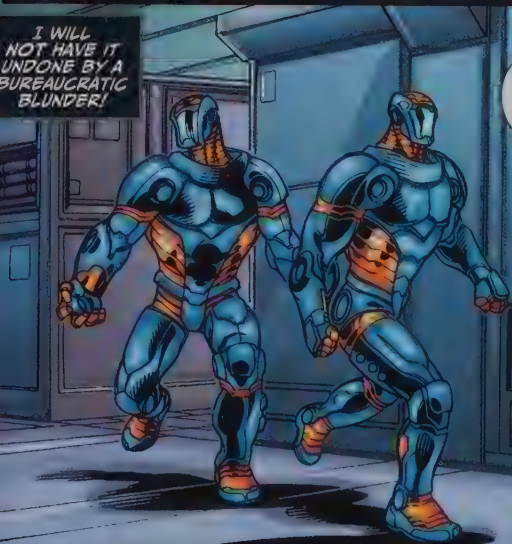
OF COURSE FINDING
HIM IS GOING TO
BE EASIER THAN
NEUTRALIZING HIM.



IF I'VE GOT
TO REMOTE-
PURGE AN
ENTIRE WING
OF THIS
FACILITY IN
ORDER TO
BRING DOWN
ONE MAN,
HEADS WILL
ROLL.

IT'S TAKEN
YEARS TO
MOUNT THIS
ENTERPRISE.

I WILL
NOT HAVE IT
UNDONE BY A
BUREAUCRATIC
BLUNDER!



ANYTIME YOU
GUYS ARE READY.
WE'RE GROPPING
AROUND IN THE
DARK HERE.

STAND BY.
UPLOADING
BIO-READINGS
TO PRIMARY
SECURITY.



JUST FOLLOW
THE BOUNCING BALL
ON YOUR TACTICAL
DISPLAYS.

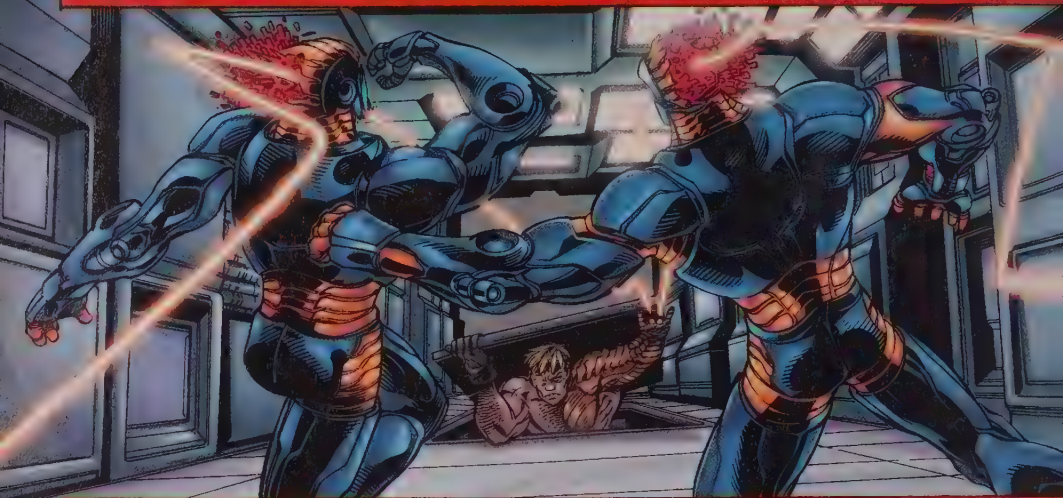
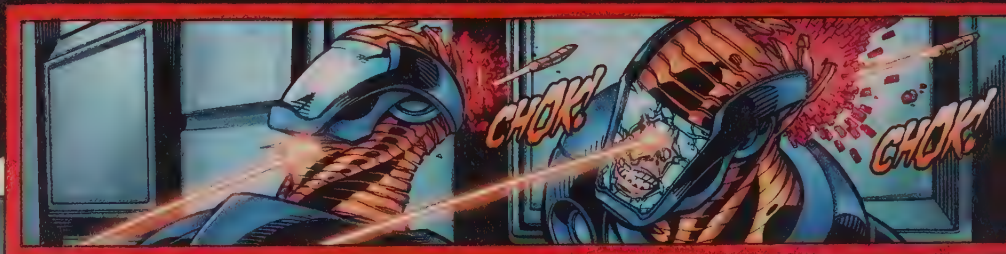
WISH THEY'D GET
THE LEAD OUT. THIS
GUY'S SUPPOSED TO
BE TROUBLE, WITH A
CAPITAL "T".



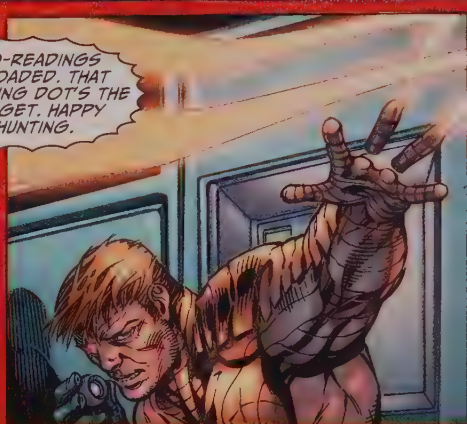
I GOT
NEWS FOR
YOU. SO
ARE WE.



TALK'S
CHEAP.



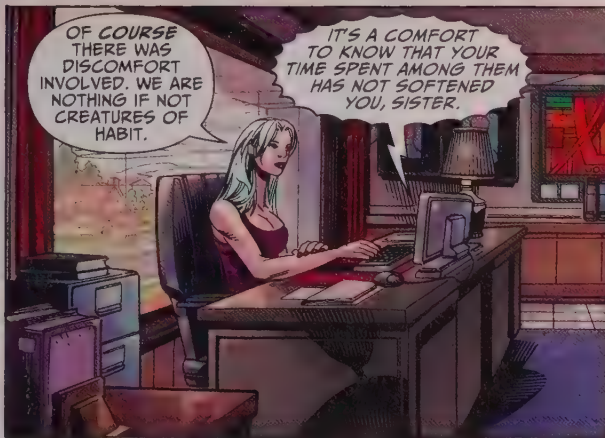
BIO-READINGS
UPLOADED. THAT
GLOWING DOT'S THE
TARGET. HAPPY
HUNTING.



SO
MUCH FOR
STEALTH.



TIME
TO START
BREAKING
THINGS.



OF COURSE THERE WAS DISCOMFORT INVOLVED. WE ARE NOTHING IF NOT CREATURES OF HABIT.

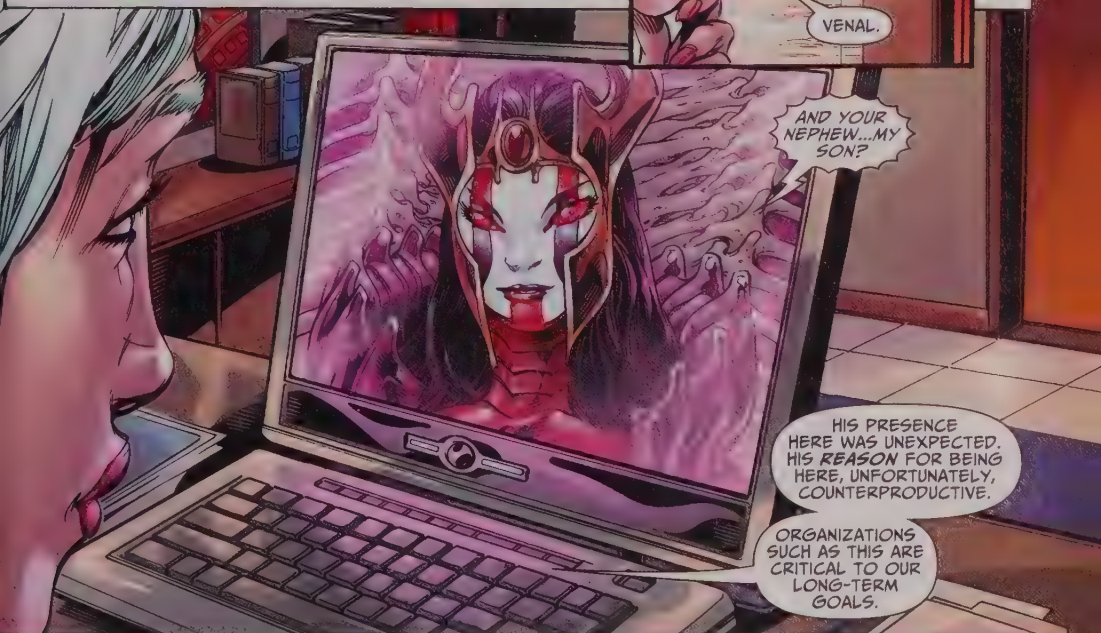
IT'S A COMFORT TO KNOW THAT YOUR TIME SPENT AMONG THEM HAS NOT SOFTENED YOU, SISTER.

QUITE THE CONTRARY.

THEY HAVE LITTLE REGARD FOR THEIR OWN KIND EXCEPT AS IT SUITS THEIR PURPOSE.

THEY ARE AS THEY HAVE EVER BEEN.

VENAL.



AND YOUR NEPHEW...MY SON?

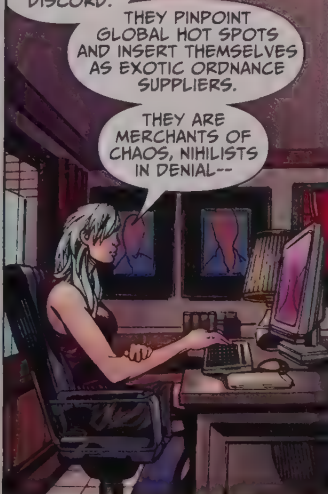
HIS PRESENCE HERE WAS UNEXPECTED. HIS REASON FOR BEING HERE, UNFORTUNATELY, COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THIS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR LONG-TERM GOALS.

THIS FLASHPOINT TRAFFICKS IN DISCORD.

THEY PINPOINT GLOBAL HOT SPOTS AND INSERT THEMSELVES AS EXOTIC ORDNANCE SUPPLIERS.

THEY ARE MERCHANTS OF CHAOS, NIHILISTS IN DENIAL--

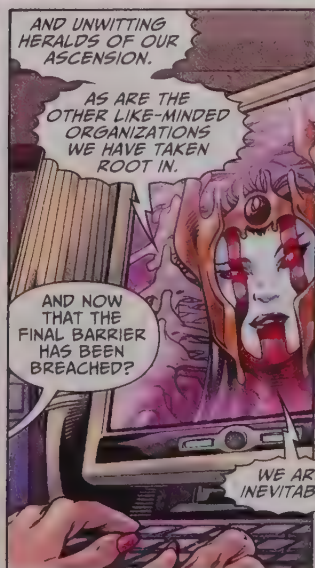


AND UNWITTING HERALDS OF OUR ASCENSION.

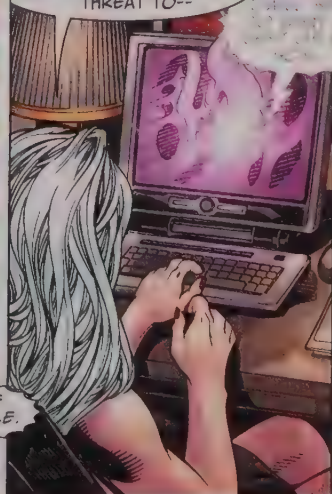
AS ARE THE OTHER LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS WE HAVE TAKEN ROOT IN.

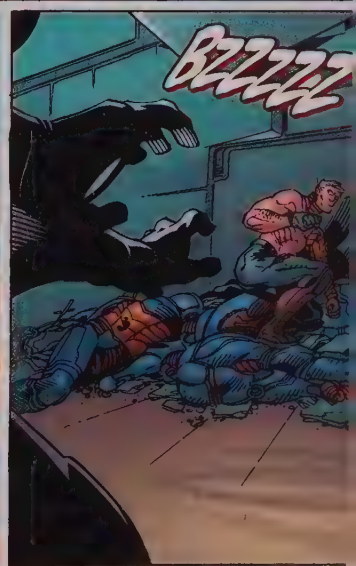
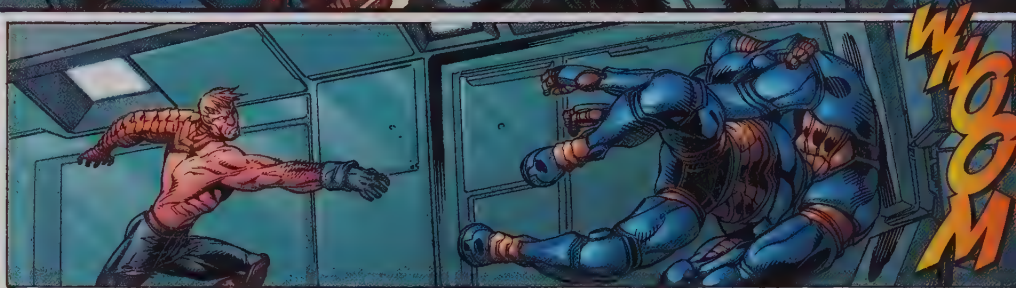
AND NOW THAT THE FINAL BARRIER HAS BEEN BREACHED?

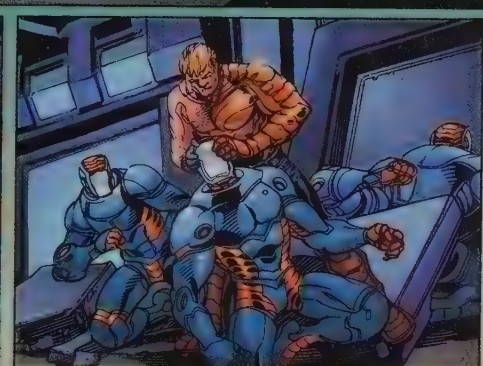
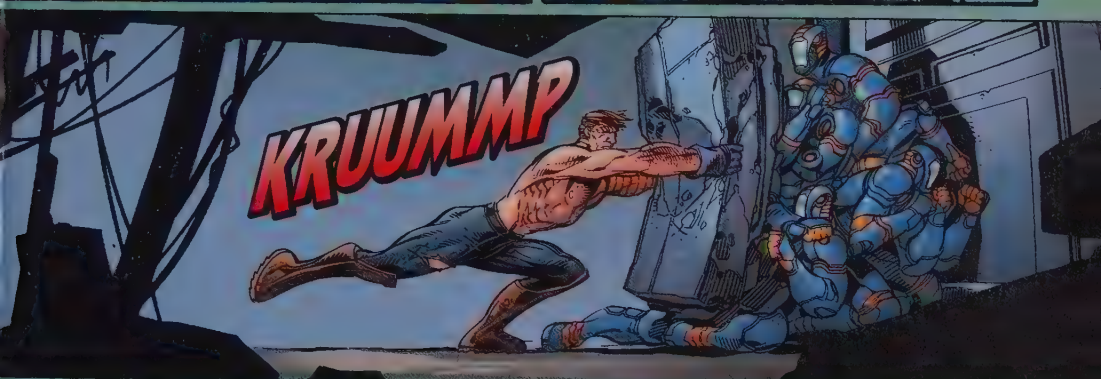
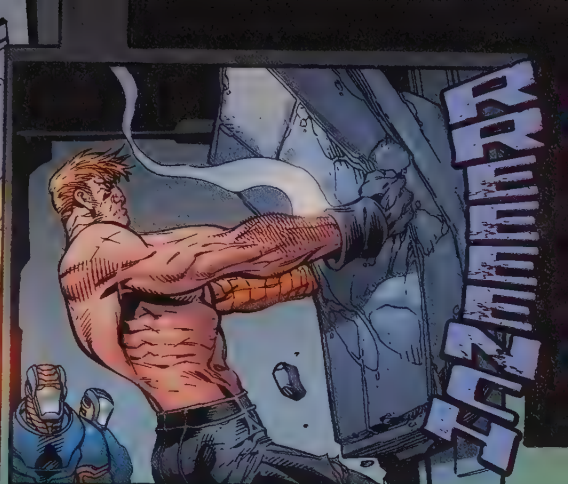
WE ARE INEVITABLE.

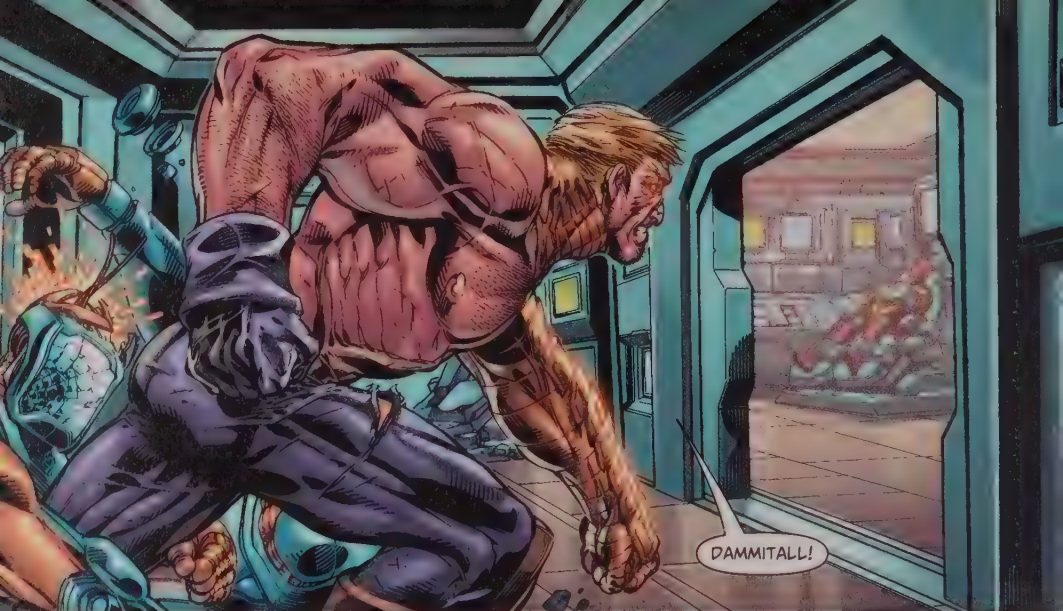


YOUR SON. I MANIPULATED HIS RELEASE, BUT HE STILL POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO--

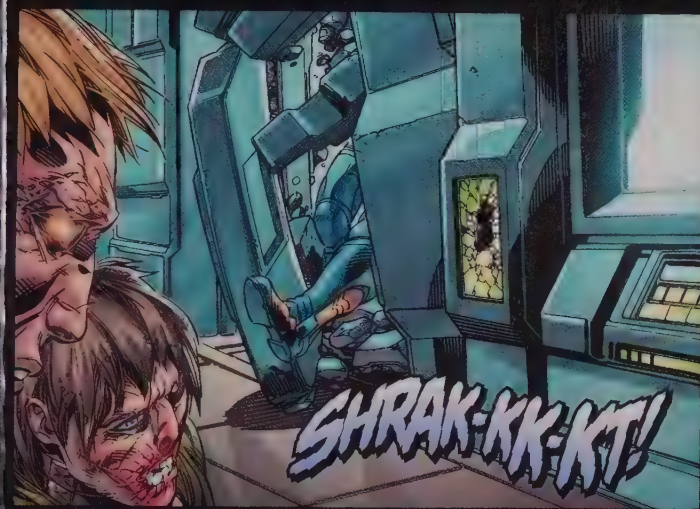




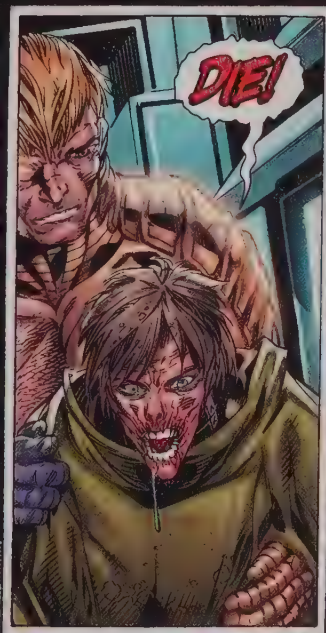




LET THE
COME



SHRAK-KK-KT!

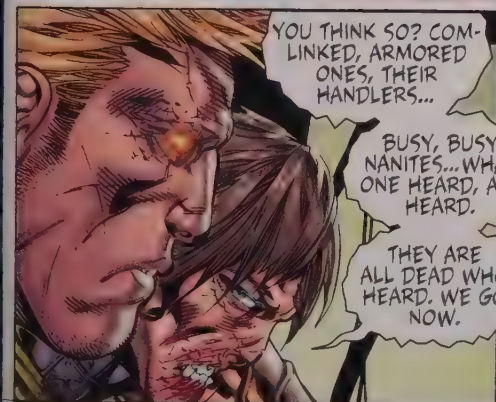


DIE!



THERE'S MORE WHERE THESE CAME FROM.

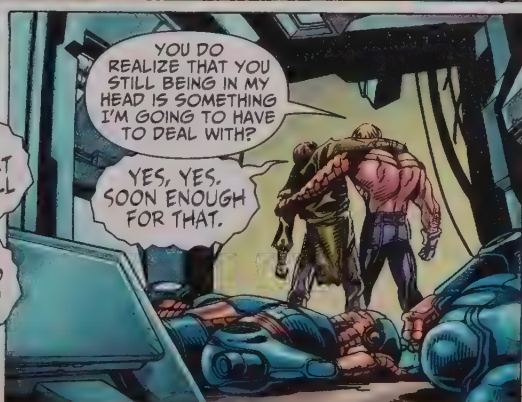
WE GO NOW. ALL ARE DEAD.



YOU THINK SO? COM-LINKED, ARMORED ONES, THEIR HANDLERS...

BUSY, BUSY NANITES... WHAT ONE HEARD, ALL HEARD.

THEY ARE ALL DEAD WHO HEARD. WE GO NOW.



YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU STILL BEING IN MY HEAD IS SOMETHING I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH?

YES, YES. SOON ENOUGH FOR THAT.

FASCINATING, IF
DISTRESSING.

THE NANITES MUST
HAVE BONDED
WITH HIS BIOLOGY
ONCE INHALED.

A GRIEVOUS
OVERSIGHT
ON OUR PART.

APPARENTLY HEARING HIS
VOICE ALONE IS ENOUGH
TO TRIGGER RESPONSE

A SUBLIMINAL
PITCH VIBRATION?
PERHAPS.

A DEATH
SENTENCE
DECIDEDLY
SO.

AS FOND AS I
AM OF MARY
SHELLEY'S
MASTERWORK, I'VE
NO DESIRE TO
FOLLOW IN DR.
FRANKSTEIN'S
MISSTEPS.

AS FOR HIS
NEW "SIDEKICK,"
I THINK THE J.S.A.
WOULD BE
BETTER SERVED
WITHOUT HIM.

DAMAGE TO THE FACILITY
SHOULD FALL WELL WITHIN
ACCEPTABLE PARAMETERS.

PERHAPS A BIT OF
BLEED-OUT, BUT IT
IS A DETENTION
WING AFTER ALL...

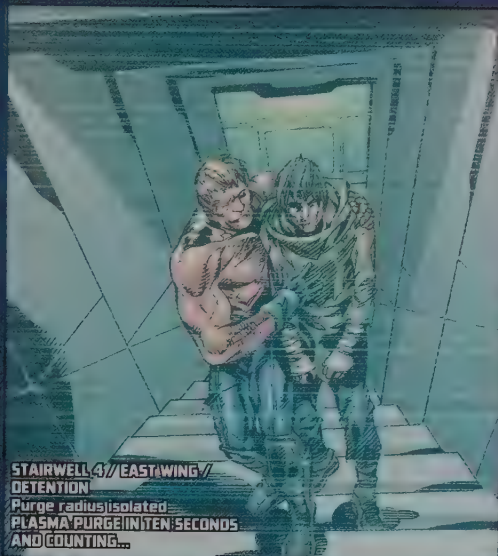
STAIRWELL 4 /
EAST WING / DETENTION
Purge radius isolated

PLASMA PURGE IN
TEN SECONDS AND
COUNTING...

...AND QUITE
EXPENDABLE.



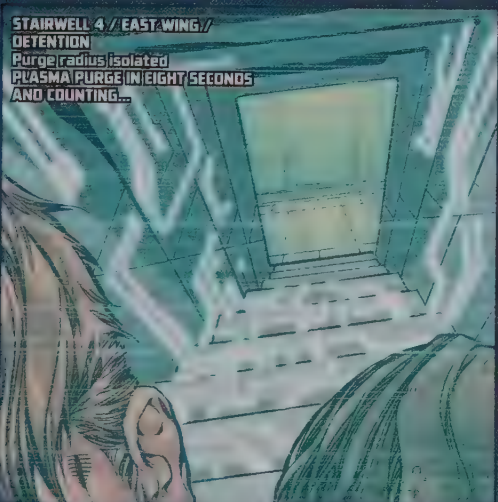




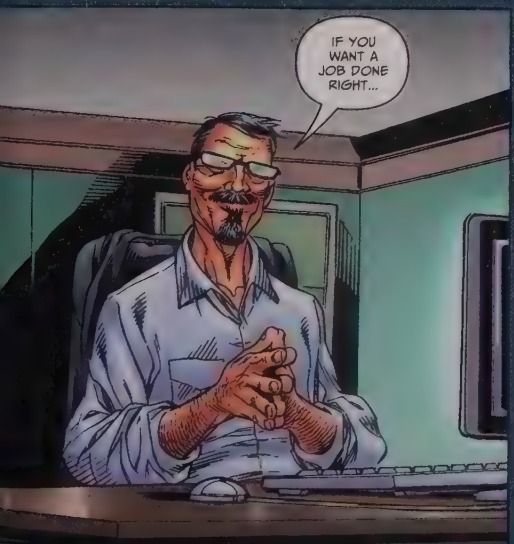
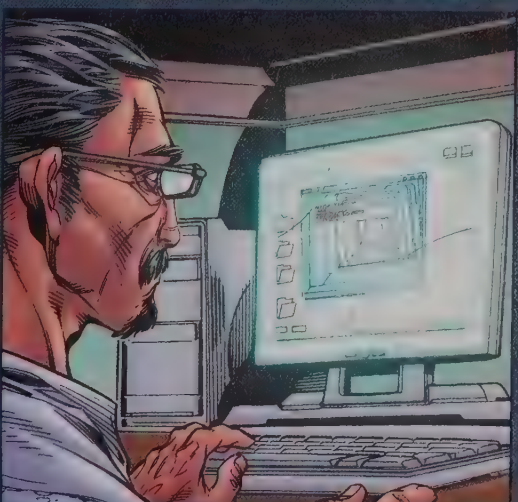
STAIRWELL 4 / EAST WING /
DETENTION
Purge radius isolated
PLASMA PURGE IN TEN SECONDS
AND COUNTING...



STAIRWELL 4 / EAST WING /
DETENTION
Purge radius isolated
PLASMA PURGE IN NINE SECONDS
AND COUNTING...



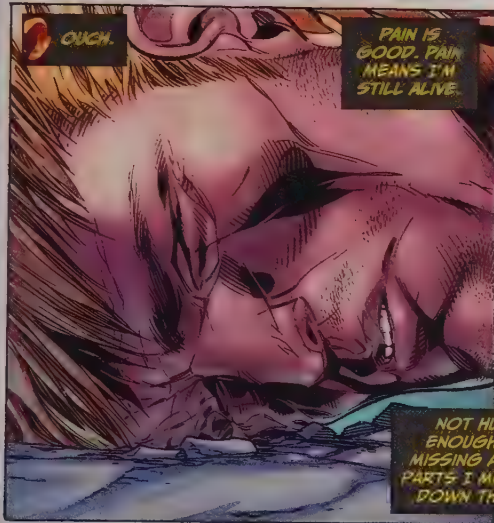
STAIRWELL 4 / EAST WING /
DETENTION
Purge radius isolated
PLASMA PURGE IN EIGHT SECONDS
AND COUNTING...



IF YOU
WANT A
JOB DONE
RIGHT...



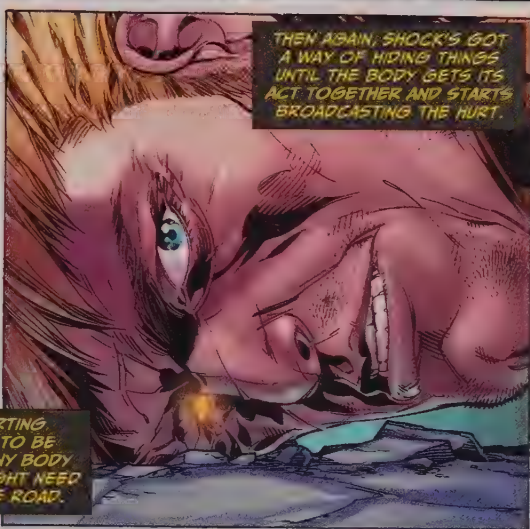




OUCH.

PAIN IS
GOOD. PAIN
MEANS I'M
STILL ALIVE.

NOT HURTING
ENOUGH TO BE
MISSING ANY BODY
PARTS I MIGHT NEED
DOWN THE ROAD.



THEN AGAIN, SHOCK'S GOT
A WAY OF HIDING THINGS
UNTIL THE BODY GETS ITS
ACT TOGETHER AND STARTS
BROADCASTING THE HURT.



SUNGE...
OKAY. ALL
PRESENT AND
ACCOUNTED
FOR.

THEN
AGAIN...



...IF IT TURNS
OUT I DIED AND
WOUND UP IN THE
SAME AFTERLIFE
AS THIS CLOWN,
I'M GONNA BE
ROYALLY PIS-

CLANK?

CLANK!



ON YOUR
FEET,
SCION.

"SCION." THAT
RULES OUT
HEAVEN.

NOT IN
KANSAS ANYMORE.
MOST DECIDEDLY
NOT.



GOOD CALL
WHICH BEGS THE
QUESTION...



JUST WHERE THE
HELL ARE WE?





WHAT IS THAT?

A PROXIMITY DRAG, MISTRESS. THE WRETCH WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE BREACH.

HAVE IT DETAINED. I WILL NOT BE SULLIED BY ITS PRESENCE.

THIS...MEAT. HOW DOES SUCH AS THAT COME TO CALL ITSELF MAGOG?

THAT "MEAT" IS MY SON. YOU WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP THAT IN MIND.

IT WEARS YOUR SON'S ESSENCE AS YOU OR I WOULD WEAR A CLOAK.

CLOAKS CONCEAL.

YES... LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.

SIGH...
SUCH A
WASTE.

DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT?

PURGE
RADIUS OR
OVERALL?

IN FOR A
PENNY, IN FOR A
POUND.

EAST WING STAIRWELL IS A TOTAL
LOSS, PLASMA FUSED, AS ARE
SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF THE
CONNECTING CORRIDORS CAUGHT
IN THE BLEED-OFF RADIUS,
ALL LEVELS INCLUSIVE.

APPROPRIATE A
SECURITY DETAIL
FROM WHICHEVER
SITE CAN SPARE
THE PERSONNEL.

IF THEY BALK,
REFER THEM
TO ME.

DO NOT
DISAPPOINT ME,
GENTLEMEN.
I'VE HAD MORE
THAN MY SHARE
OF DISAP-
POINTMENTS
OF LATE, AND
MY TOLERANCE
LEVEL HAS
BEEN
REACHED.

ISOLATED COMBAT
DAMAGE HAS BEEN
VERIFIED THROUGHOUT
THE COMPLEX.

NEED I ADD
THAT SECURITY
HAS BEEN
DECIMATED?

DAMAGE
WILL BE SEEN
TO. SOONER THAN
LATER, AS IN, NOW!

ASIDE
FROM THAT,
IT'S BUSINESS
AS USUAL. NO
EXCUSES.

AND SPEAKING OF
DISAPPOINTMENTS...

SO IS
IT, LIKE,
REALLY,
REALLY
BAD?

NOTHING
INSURMOUNTABLE.

WASN'T IT YOUR
IDEA THAT I LEARN TO
"DELEGATE AUTHORITY"?



UH HUH. MICRO-MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE, Y'KNOW, COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE?

AND WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THE CIRCUMSTANCE WE CURRENTLY FIND OURSELVES IN?

UNFORTUNATE?

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES.

SO MAGOS IS, LIKE--

VAPORIZED.

ALONG WITH MR. SUNDERLAND.

YOU CAN FILE THAT UNDER TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

R & D WOULD LIKE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THE HELMET AND THAT, Y'KNOW, TRIDENT THING?

I'M SURE THEY WOULD.

SEE TO THAT, WOULD YOU?



AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DO TRY TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

DELEGATE AUTHORITY? PERHAPS, WERE I NOT SURROUNDED BY IMBECILES!

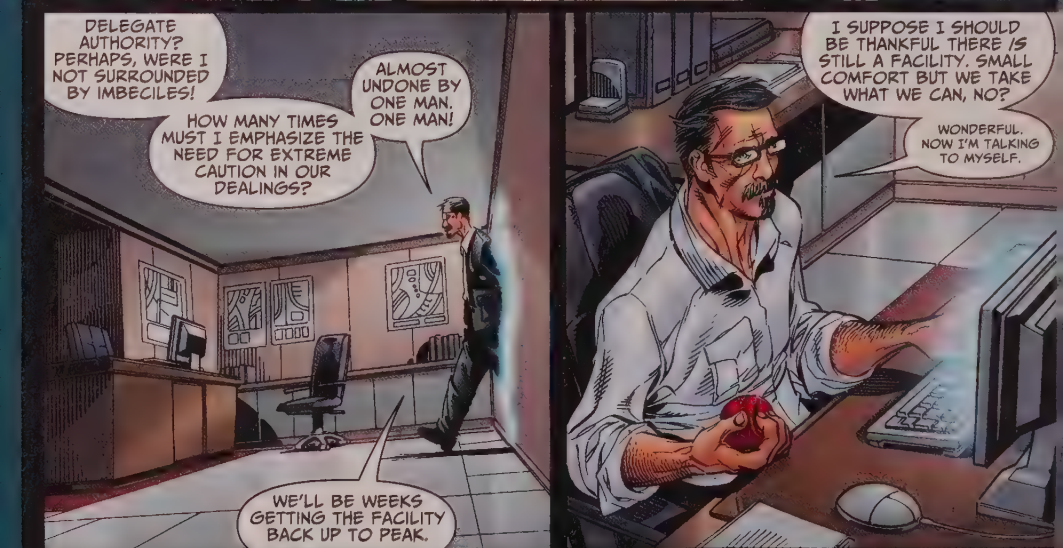
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR EXTREME CAUTION IN OUR DEALINGS?

ALMOST UNDONE BY ONE MAN. ONE MAN!

WE'LL BE WEEKS GETTING THE FACILITY BACK UP TO PEAK.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE THANKFUL THERE IS STILL COMFORT BUT WE TAKE WHAT WE CAN, NO?

WONDERFUL. NOW I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.



I HATE IT WHEN THINGS GET COMPLICATED...

AND IT DOESN'T GET MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN THIS.

LAST THING I REMEMBER THAT MAKES ANY SENSE IS HAULING MAGMA'S ASHES OUT OF THE FIRE.

FROM THEN ON, IT'S OVER THE RAINBOW AND DAMN IF I DIDN'T LAND IN OZ'S LOW RENT DISTRICT.

I'VE BUMPED UP AGAINST ENOUGH WEIRD WITH THE U.S.A. TO KNOW WHEN TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT AND LET THE ANSWERS COME TO ME.

MY NEW "BEST FRIEND" HAD TO LEARN THAT THE HARD WAY.

AFTER ABOUT FIVE MINUTES OF "LET US GO" AND "KILL THEM, MAGOG," THEY CLOCKED HIM.

APPARENTLY HIS MIND-CONTROL POWERS DON'T COUNT FOR MUCH HEREABOUTS. THERE'S THAT AT LEAST.

REALLY? THIS IS THE BEST YOU COULD DO?

WHY, FINE THANKS, YOURSELF?

MAKE THAT...THING "COMFORTABLE."

ITS PRESENCE IS NOT REQUIRED NOR WILL IT BE TOLERATED.

COMFORTABLE? THING? I, AHMM...

IF IT CONTINUES TO MEWL, CUT ITS TONGUE OUT.

THING? IT? WHAT'S WITH THE PRONOUN GAMES?

SOMETHING'D BETTER START MAKING SENSE SOON OR I'M GONNA HAVE TO START CRACKING HEADS.



THWOK!



YOU HAD THAT COMING.

I DID?

WITH ME, THE BARONESS AWAITS.



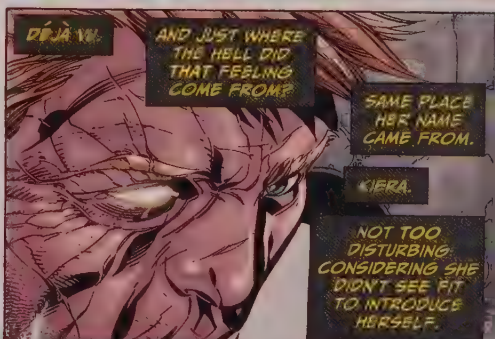
DÉJÀ VU.

AND JUST WHERE THE HELL DID THAT FEELING COME FROM?

SAME PLACE HER NAME CAME FROM.

CIERA.

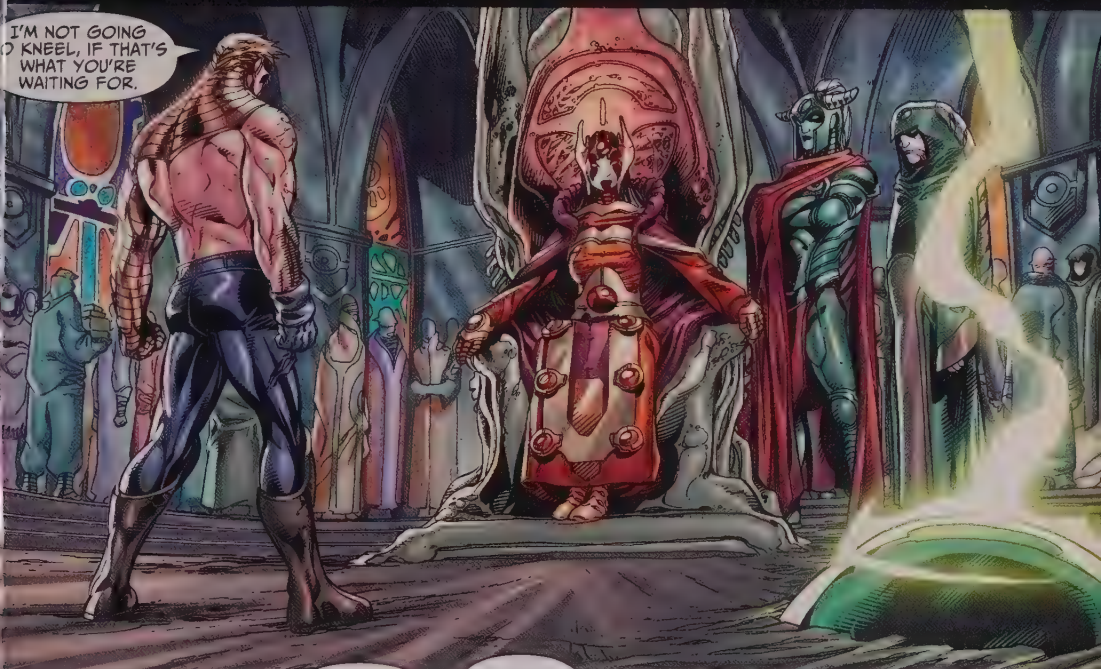
NOT TOO DISTURBING, CONSIDERING SHE DIDN'T SEE FIT TO INTRODUCE HERSELF.



UNACCEPTABLE. MOST UNACCEPTABLE.



I'M NOT GOING
TO KNEEL, IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE
WAITING FOR.



HE FINALLY
FINDS HIS
VOICE.

A DEFIANT
VOICE. HIS
FATHER'S
VOICE.



NICE TRY,
GRANDMA.

MY FATHER
WAS AN INSURANCE
UNDERWRITER OUT OF
TULSA, OKLAHOMA.



SPEAK MY
NAME. SURELY
THAT IS NOT
TOO MUCH TO
ASK?

LADY, YOU
DON'T KNOW
THE HALF
OF IT.

RIGHT.
THIS IS ME
BEGINNING
TO LOSE MY
PATIENCE.

WHO ARE
YOU PEOPLE?
WHERE AM I
AND WHY AM
I HERE?



AND HOW DO I
KNOW HER NAME IS
KIERA? LET'S NOT
FORGET THAT.



HE IS INCOMPLETE.

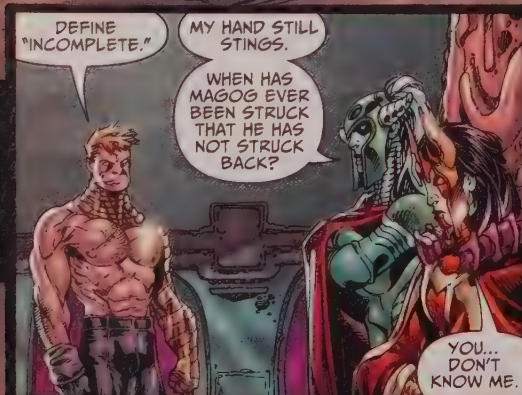
KIERA, STAY. THE REST OF YOU, OUT.



JUST LIKE THAT? NO BUT? NO WELL-MEANING PROTESTS?

ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY. THAT COULD COME IN HANDY IF THINGS GET UGLY.

IS THE CRONE RIGHT ARE YOU THA INCOMPLETE

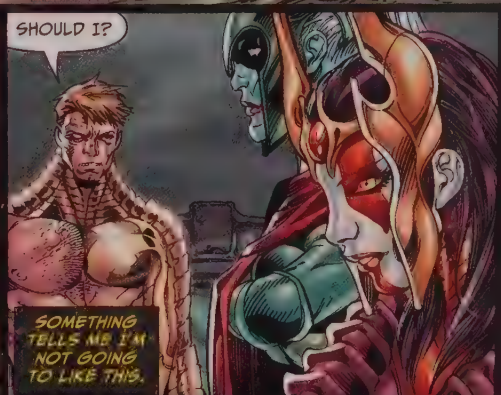


DEFINE "INCOMPLETE."

MY HAND STILL STINGS.

WHEN HAS MAGOG EVER BEEN STRUCK THAT HE HAS NOT STRUCK BACK?

YOU... DON'T KNOW ME.



SHOULD I?

SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS.

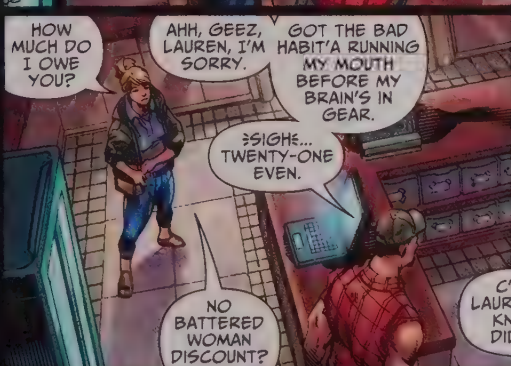


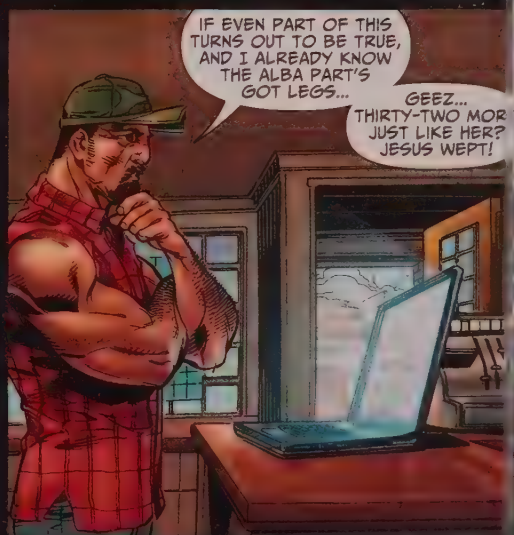
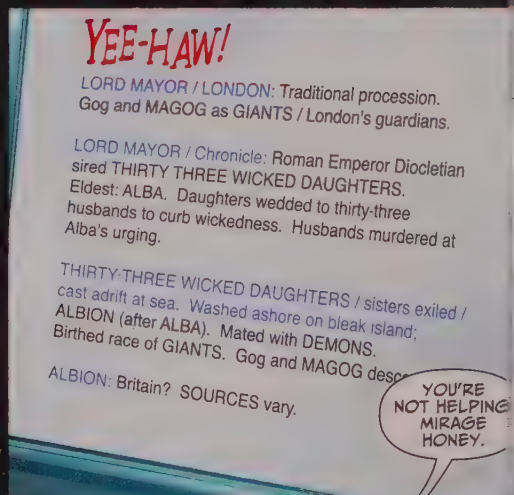
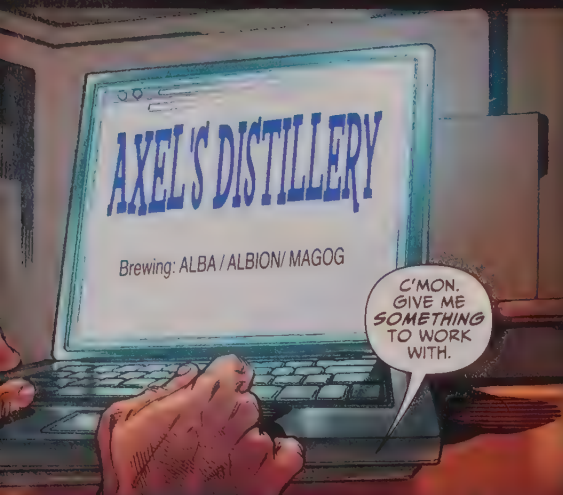
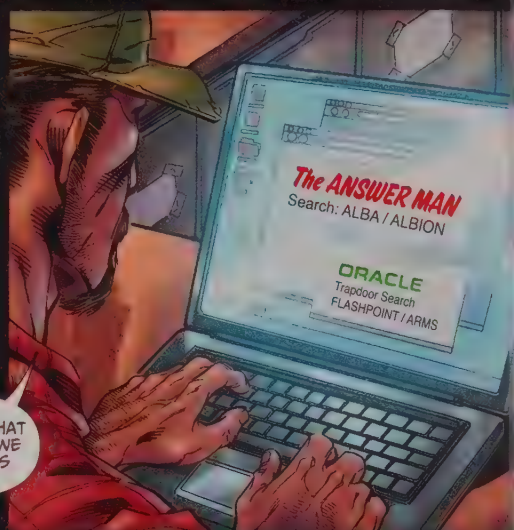
I AM ALBA, FIRSTBORN OF THE THIRTY-THREE, BARONESS OF BLIGHTED ALBION.

I AM YOUR MOTHER.



HUH. DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.





WE ARE
AS WE CHOOSE
TO BE.

THIS
INCARNATION SUITS
US...OR WILL ONCE
WE HAVE RESTORED
IT TO GLORY.

I SHOULD
NOT HAVE TO BE
EXPLAINING THIS
TO YOU.

YOU
KEEP SAYING
THAT.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
"YOU ARE AS
YOU CHOOSE
TO BE"?

MORTAL MINDS ARE
MALLEABLE.

MYTH IS
REALITY MADE
ACCEPTABLE BY
THOSE UNWILLING TO
ACCEPT REALITY AS
PRESENTED.

YOU WERE QUITE
ADEPT AT PLAYING
THAT GAME.

ONE ONLY NEED
REVIEW THE VARIOUS, OFTEN
CONTRADICTORY ACCOUNTS
OF YOUR...EXPLOITS.

GREAT. NOW I'VE
GOT EXPLOITS.

NOT
GOOD.

I'VE BEEN PLAYING ALONG FOR THE
BETTER PART OF AN HOUR NOW AND
ALL I'VE GOT TO SHOW FOR IT IS...

I GOT
NOTHING.

WHICH COULD BECOME A
PROBLEM BECAUSE SHE'S
OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING
SOMETHING.

THIS WHOLE MAGOS THING
WAS LAID ON ME BY SOME
"GOD WANNABE" CALLED
ITSELF GOG.

ARBITRARY?
YOU BET.

TO HEAR THIS ALBA TELL IT,
"MAGOS" MIGHT NOT HAVE
BEEN GOG'S TO GIVE.

THAT OR SHE'S
A LOON.

PLEASE BE
A LOON.

...TAKEN US
CENTURIES TO UNDO THE
DAMAGE
DONE BY
GOG, TO
BREACH THE
BARRIER BY
WHICH HE
IMPRISONED
US.

DOES HE
STILL INSIST
THAT HE'S A
GOD?

HE'S
NOT?



ARE YOU BEING
DELIBERATELY
OBTUSE?

WHEN
HAS HE NOT
BEEN?

WHAT IS HER
PROBLEM?



THIS IS
INTOLERABLE.

AGREED. SO
HOW ABOUT DOING
WHATEVER YOU DID
TO BRING ME HERE...
IN REVERSE?

I WAS KIND
OF IN THE MIDDLE
OF SOMETHING
WHEN--

HAD I NOT
OPENED A BREACH,
YOU WOULD BE
DEAD.



I WOULD THINK
A MODICUM OF
GRATITUDE IS
CALLED FOR.

SHE'S GOT
A POINT,
I THINK.

RIGHT.
THANKS.

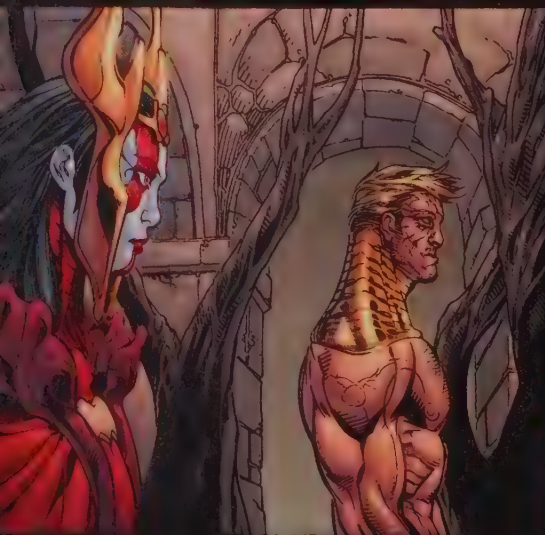
CAN I GO
NOW?

YOU CAN
KEEP MIASMA.



THE WRETCH
THAT ACCOMPANIED
HIM.

AH.



INCOMPLETE.
YES, I SEE
THAT NOW.

VERY WELL. RETURN
TO WHATEVER PITIFUL
PURSUITS YOU WOULD
PLACE OVER SERVICE
TO THE REALM.

BUT KNOW
THIS: BLOOD WILL
NOT BE DENIED. I
WILL NOT BE
DENIED.

MAGOG
WILL NOT BE
DENIED.



YOU
DISAPPROVE.

IT IS
NOT MY
PLACE
TO--

AND
WHEN HAVE
YOU EVER
MINDED YOUR
PLACE?

I WILL NOT
HAVE HIM
TAKEN FROM
ME AGAIN.

WHEN HE IS
WHOLE HE
WILL SEEK
YOU OUT.

AND IF THE
DAMAGE DONE IS
TOO GREAT? IF
THIS...SHELL IS ALL
HE WILL EVER BE?

THEN YOU
WILL SEEK HIM
OUT, SHOULD
YOU HAVE A
MIND TO.

GOG WILL
PAY FOR
WHAT HE HAS
DONE.

IN DUE TIME. DID
YOU NOTICE THE
BLOOM?

ALBION
STIRS.

ANTICIPATION,
KIERA. SAVOR
IT.

MY SISTERS
PAVE THE WAY
EVEN AS WE
SPEAK.

WE WILL BE
RESTORED.

AND MY
HUSBAND, WILL
HE ALSO BE
RESTORED?

THERE WILL
COME A TIME
WHEN HE WILL
BE GIVEN LITTLE
CHOICE IN THE
MATTER.

HE WILL SIT
AT MY RIGHT HAND OR
KNEEL AT MY FEET.
WHICHEVER COMES
TO BE...

...HE WILL
SERVE.

YOU HAVE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING ME!



HE'S
BACK!

DAMMITALL!

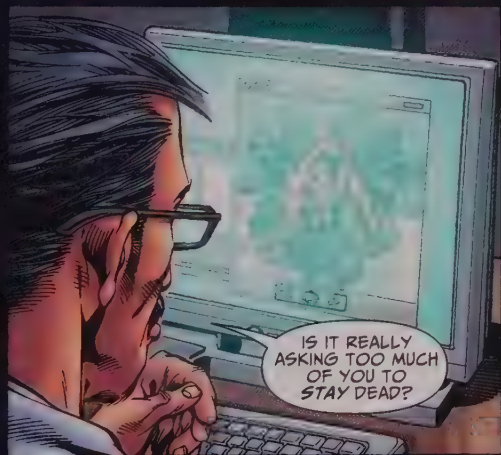
SHE MAY NOT BE MY
MOTHER BUT SHE'S
DEFINITELY A MOTHER
IF THIS STUNT'S ANY
INDICATION!

MAGOG!
WHO THE HELL
DID YOU
THINK?

THEN AGAIN, IF MEMORY
SERVES, MAMMA PRETTY
MUCH DECATED SECURITY.



... AND LORD KNOWS I'VE
NEVER BEEN ONE TO LOOK A
GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH...



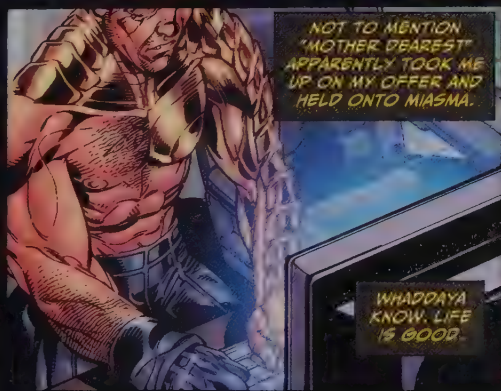
IS IT REALLY ASKING TOO MUCH OF YOU TO STAY DEAD?



THINGS ARE DEFINITELY LOOKING UP.

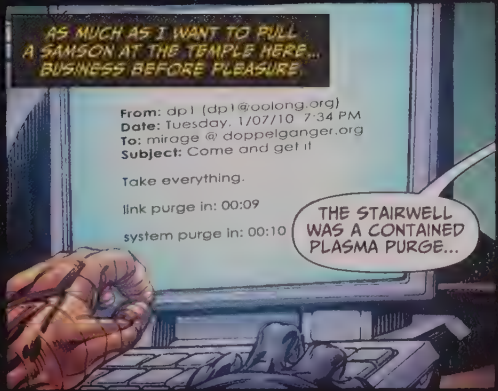
WITH SECURITY DOWN I'VE GOT THE RUN OF THE PLACE UNLESS ONE OF THESE CLOWNS DECIDES TO PLAY HERO.

FILE THAT UNDER "HIGHLY UNLIKELY."



NOT TO MENTION "MOTHER DEAREST" APPARENTLY TOOK ME UP ON MY OFFER AND HELD ONTO MIASMA.

WHADDAYA KNOW, LIFE IS GOOD.



AS MUCH AS I WANT TO PULL A SAMSON AT THE TEMPLE HERE... BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE.

From: dpl (dpl@aolong.org)
Date: Tuesday, 1/07/10 7:34 PM
To: mirage @ doppelganger.org
Subject: Come and get it

Take everything.

link purge in: 00:09

system purge in: 00:10

THE STAIRWELL WAS A CONTAINED PLASMA PURGE...

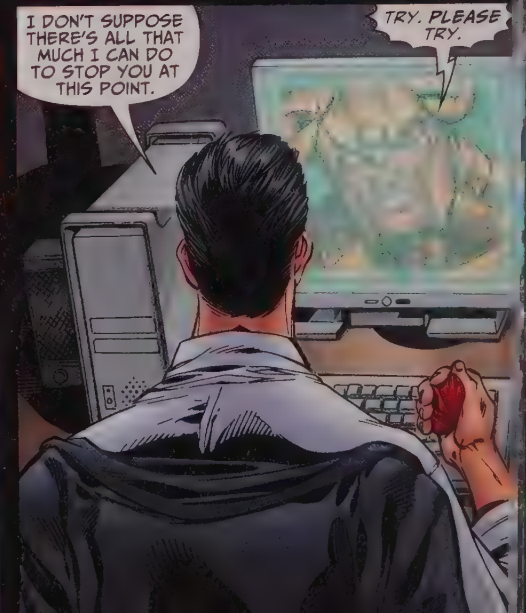
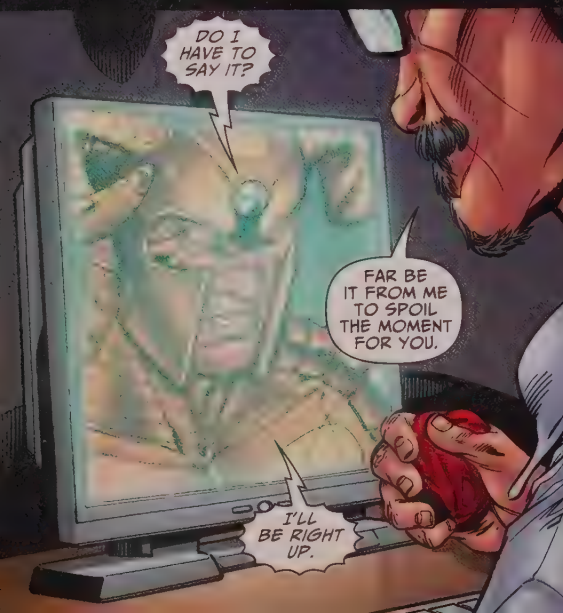
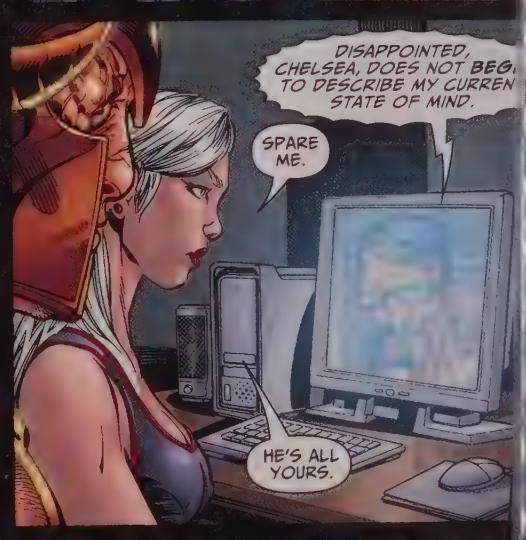
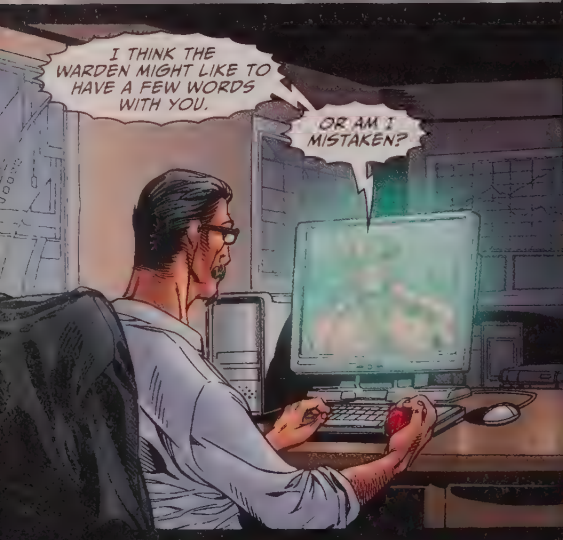
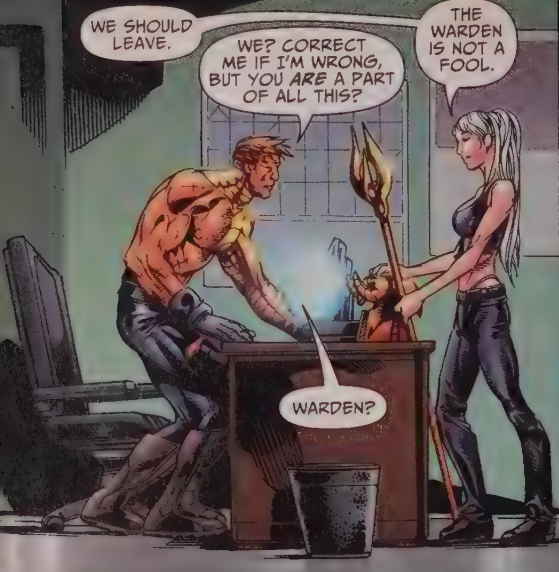


...THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION IS LIKEWISE CONFIGURED.

I HAVE TEMPORARILY DISABLED THE AUTO-DESTRUCT PROTOCOL.

IN DOING SO I HAVE PLAYED MY HAND PREMATURELY.





IF YOU
INSIST.

TRUE, YOU
TROGLODYTIC
BUFFOON, THERE
MAY BE NOTHING I
CAN DO TO STOP YOU,
BUT BEING HAVEN'S
WARDEN *DOES* HAVE
ITS PERKS...

...AND
DESPERATE
TIMES DO
CALL FOR
DESPERATE
MEASURES.

PRIMARY OVERRIDE
ACCESS CODE: 511MM4ND1 / ACCEPTED
SECURITY GRID SHUTDOWN

WARNING: Detention Cells 
CONFINEMENT NEGATIVE.

LET THE
REVELS
BEGIN.

HAVEN
TOWN
SQUARE

PROLOGUE

THE
STAR-K
RANCH,
UPSTATE
NEW
YORK.

I STILL
THINK WE
SHOULD CALL
IN THE FIOS
GUY.

I GOT
IT!

YOU
SAID THAT
AN HOUR
AGO.

HELLO?
HOURMAN?

THERE. THAT
OUGHTA DO IT.
YOU TAKING
FIRST MONITOR
SHIFT?

NICE
TRY.

I'M
TAKING FIRST
MONITOR
SHIFT?

SIGH...
NO GOOD DEED
GOES UNPUNISHED.
LET'S SEE WHAT
WE GOT HERE.

J.S.A. PRIORITY ALERT
HAVEN maximum security prison /
Warden D.P. MACKLIN / PRIORITY BEACON
SECURITY GRID DOWN
Inmate containment 0.00% effective
**WARNING: Rogue metahuman presence:
MAGOG confirmed.**

PLEASE
TELL ME THAT
DOESN'T SAY
MAGOG.

END

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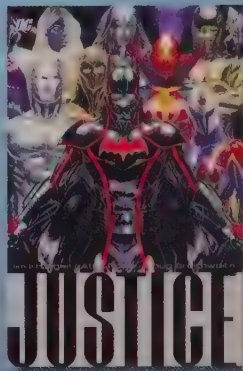
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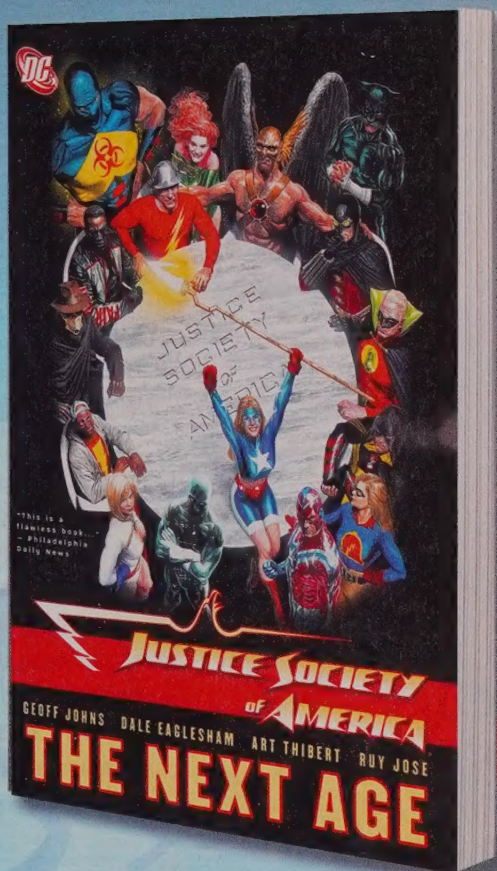
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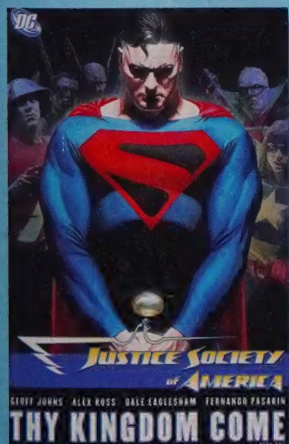
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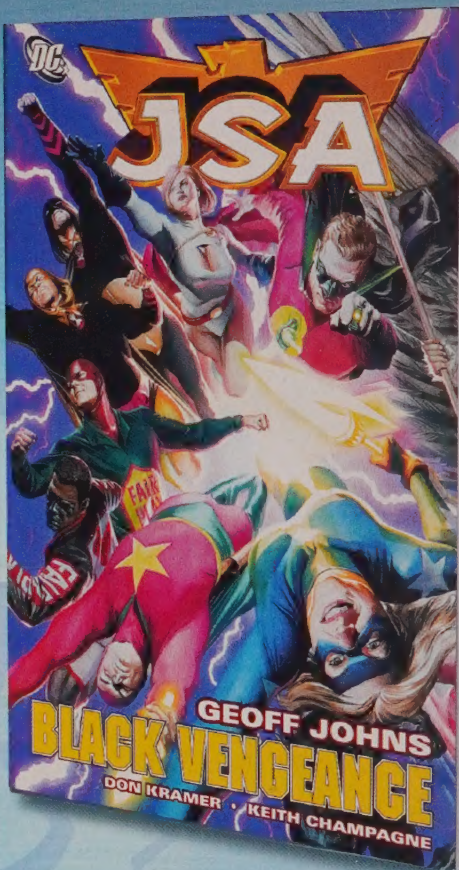
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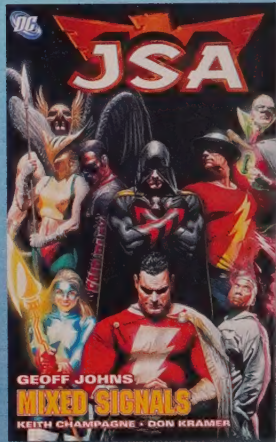
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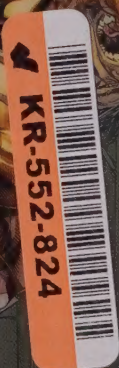
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